

Mubarak will go to Israel

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said in Cairo that he would visit Israel for the first time in February after a trip to the United States. In Beirut, the peace offensive began to break down after gun battles through the night between militias loyal to Iran and those who support Iraq.

£100,000 gift for transplants

A gift of £100,000 by Mr John James, the millionaire philanthropist, will enable Westminster Hospital to save the lives of 15 children needing heart transplants next year. The gift will bring the number of operations up to 40. Page 2

Reagan steps up security

President Reagan has ordered Secret Service protection for his three top White House aides as intelligence and FBI agents searched the country for a five-man Libyan assassination squad which is reported to have entered the United States. Page 4

Haig pledge on Central America

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has pledged to prevent any Central American country from becoming a platform for terror and war and offered a programme of economic assistance. Page 4

Housebuilding improves

Private sector housing starts are likely to exceed the forecasts made half way through this year despite the recession and high interest rates. Housebuilders now forecast about 118,000 starts by the end of the year, compared with 98,000 last year, the worst figure since 1953. Page 17

EEC may block aid to Turkey

The European Commission has decided to recommend blocking an EEC aid package to Turkey in protest at the imprisonment of Mr Bulent Scerif, the former Prime Minister. Page 4

Homes challenge to Heseltine

Norwich City Council is to ask the High Court to stop the Department of the Environment taking over its housing stock to speed sales to tenants. It is challenging the constitutional validity of the move. Page 2

Arts welcome grants rise

The Arts Council, museums and galleries received the government announcement of an 8 per cent increase in grants for the arts with relief. As many had expected the grants to be cut. Page 3

45 die in panic inside tower

Forty-five people died during a panic when power failed inside the Qutub Minar tower, one of India's great monuments on the outskirts of Delhi. Many of the dead and injured were school children. Page 5

Footmen jailed

Two royal footmen who stole uniforms and mining equipment to follow their hobby of caving and stored some of their booty at Buckingham Palace were sent to prison at Gloucester Crown Court. Page 3

Solidarity threat

Solidarity has threatened the Polish Government with a national strike if a state of emergency is declared. Page 5

Willis in form

England's Bob Willis found his best form when he took four wickets for 35 runs against India's South Zone at Hyderabad. The home side reached 247 for nine at the close. Page 22

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Sakharov and wife taken to hospital by force

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Dec 4

The Soviet authorities have forcibly removed Dr Andrei Sakharov, the leading dissident physicist, and his wife, Yelena, to hospital and are giving them medical assistance. A Soviet newspaper announced today. The couple had been on hunger strike for 13 days in an attempt to persuade the authorities to grant an exit visa to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, the fiancée of Dr Sakharov's son.

The report suggests that the Sakharovs, whose action has evoked protests and appeals to Moscow by statesmen in Europe and America, will be force fed. The paper said they were being treated to prevent any complications in the state of their health.

Dr Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was exiled to Gorky, 250 miles east of Moscow, in January 1980. He and his wife Yelena, who uses the surname Bonner, began their strike on November 22. Dr Sakharov, who is 60 and suffers from a heart condition, has been in hospital since Wednesday. He said they were holding out and in good spirits but friends of the family have expressed fears for the life of Dr Sakharov, who is 60 and suffers from a heart condition.

On Wednesday an American delegate to the United Nations told the General Assembly's social, humanitarian and cultural committee that Dr Sakharov was a powerful moral and intellectual figure and said he was protesting against "an act of petty and intolerable cruelty by the Soviet authorities".

Washington: A State Department spokesman said the United States had made "serious efforts on behalf of Dr Sakharov, and described their admission to hospital as "extremely regrettable" (Remer reports).

Moscow had apparently spurned any easy and humanitarian means of ending the couple's hunger strike by allowing their daughter-in-law to emigrate to the United States to join her husband.

Their intransigence has led to the hospitalization of one of the world's greatest scientists and fighters for human rights, he said.



Dr Sakharov and his wife, whose hunger strike has brought protests to Moscow by European and American statesmen.

Cloze executors accused of cunning legal ploy

By Tony Saunier

A "cunningly planned and carefully arranged" legal attempt to avoid paying millions of pounds in tax on the estate of the late Sir Charles Cloze, Mr Justice Ewbank said in the High Court yesterday.

Sir Charles, the financier, died in 1979 leaving an estimated £60m in holdings in England and Monaco. The judge said the British portion of the estate was probably worth £30m to £40m, but by a stroke of the pen, much of that had found its way to the tax-haven of Jersey.

The judge upheld the appointment of the Official Solicitor to administer the estate, passing over Mr Nathan Moyahos of France and Mr Joseph Kasierer of Israel, the executors named by Sir Charles in his will. His decision, he said, took account of the Inland Revenue's "lack of confidence" in the conduct of the executors to date.

Protests at close vote to end BL strike

From Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent, Birmingham

A chaotic mass meeting of workers on strike at BL's Longbridge car plant yesterday voted by a majority of 46 to end the four-week long dispute over test breaks and return to work on Monday.

The groups of workers claimed later that the meeting had been so bitterly divided that another would probably take place on Monday to reverse the decision.

Voting was so close that it had proved impossible to decide the result by a show of hands and two avenues of shop stewards had to be formed so that workers could be counted as they filed through, like a House of Commons division is counted.

The result was greeted with a roar of protest. Track workers in particular shouted that the vote had been swung by women upholders who had been on strike for only three days.

"It was a near riot with people screaming abuse at each other and threatening God knows what," said one elderly worker.

The peace formula agreed after all-night negotiations contained major concessions by both sides. Management went halfway to meet the union's demand that it should drop plans to reduce daily relaxation time from 52 to 40 minutes for assembly track workers. It will now be 46 minutes.

In return the unions will accept some increased track speeds, readjustment of manning, an increase in the working week for night shift workers from 38 to 39 hours and the full 12 minutes reduction in break time for the 7,000 employees not directly connected with the assembly tracks.

It was the extra hour for night shift workers which caused the most discord. For nearly two hours the building housing the meeting, echoed with shouts as speakers were heckled and booed.

Informers who led police to IRA camp named by republicans

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

The Provisional IRA detector believed to have given the Royal Ulster Constabulary information on which they have based arrests of Belfast republicans, and which led to the Irish police discovering an IRA training camp, was named by the republicans yesterday.

An Phoblacht, the weekly newspaper of Provisional Sinn Féin, said he is Mr Christopher Black, aged 29, from the Ardoyne district of Belfast. Mr Black is already referred to as "superior" among his former colleagues - "out" is the Belfast synonym for the English branch of the IRA.

He was released from prison about a year ago after serving a five-year term.

Mr Black's role in the movement on release but on being arrested some weeks ago was described by the RUC as becoming an informer in 1978.

The Episcopal Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, who will tomorrow ordain a British woman, called on the Church of England to end discrimination against women in the Church.

The Right Rev John Spong, of the Anglican Church in America, will ordain Miss Elizabeth Canham, theology teacher from Chatham, south-east London, in a ceremony at Trinity Cathedral, Newark, in which he will be assisted by Dr Michael Storer, the former Bishop of Southwark. Dr Storer officiated when Miss Canham was made a deacon in 1978.

Dr Spong said today that he hoped the ordination would call all members of the Anglican Church to end the discriminatory practices that still mark some parts of this worldwide communion. He urged the Church of England to move quickly to "claim the talents of women called to the ministry, before they go abroad where their talents would be lost at home."

Miss Canham, aged 42, intends working in the United States. She is at present a curate in a New Jersey parish.

"I'm basically a teacher," she said. "I hope to return to England eventually and combine the ministry with that of a teacher."



Mrs Margaret Thatcher with a damp clown at the unveiling of a drinking fountain in Hyde Park to commemorate the 1979 Great Children's Party. Later, saying: "Don't stand there and get cold", she led children in physical jerks.

Jobless levels soaring in US and Germany

By Bailey Morris and Nicholas Cole

Unemployment is moving sharply higher in both the United States and West Germany. The number of jobless Americans continued to climb last month to a peak of 8.4 per cent of the workforce. This represents the highest unemployment figure since the 1974-75 recession, the United States Labor Department reported.

While the price you have to pay for bringing down inflation - Mr Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary to President Reagan, said.

In West Germany, unemployment last month reached the highest November level for 29 years. The number of unemployed was 1.49 million, or 6.4 per cent of the workforce. The Federal Labor Office said.

In the United States there were more than nine million unemployed by the end of the month, including a record volume of unemployed young people for the highest unemployment rate in 29 years. This was the highest since records began in the mid-1940s.

A growing number of plant layoffs has blunted for the big increase in unemployment among adult male blue-collar workers traditionally the last to feel the effects of severe recession. The jobless rate for unemployed male adults was close to a postwar high of 7.2 per cent.

The White House said yesterday the climb in unemployment from 8 per cent in October to 8.4 per cent last month was not surprising.

Mr Speakes predicted that the jobless rate would drop next year but private forecasts and some government forecasts expect it to reach 9 per cent by next month and continue rising in the new year to 9.5 per cent.

The Irish police believe a terrorist squad in training fled only minutes before they arrived on the island.

The republicans believe that Mr Black is being held under police protection in the North. He is said to have a wife and children and have been removed by the RUC to save them from possible reprisals.

President Reagan has told the Irish Government that a lasting solution to the Northern Ireland problem "can only be found in a process of reconciliation between the two Irish political traditions and between Britain and Ireland" (our Dublin Correspondent writes).

The message came in a letter delivered to the Irish Government yesterday by Mr William Clark, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, the most senior official from the Reagan administration to visit Dublin.

Since last July, when the rate was 7 per cent, the unemployment rate has been increasing steadily, particularly in big industrial states such as Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

The rapidly growing number of unemployed young people, aged between 16 and 19, is particularly worrying especially at the state level where outbreaks of inner-city violence are feared. At the end of last month, nearly 1.9 million young people were without jobs.

The November figures indicate that the present economic downturn is widespread, affecting even the southern "sun belt" regions where growth and employment have been explosive in recent years.

Unemployment in the building industry, one of the fastest growing in the "sun belt" regions, has more than doubled since last November.

It is also significant that employment in the retail trade, which traditionally swells in the period before Christmas, was less than usual. In West Germany, almost 250,000 jobs have been lost in the last two months, while the number of short-time workers rose by nearly 70,000 last month to 436,000.

Bermondsey man speaks out 'I have been tried and executed'

By Anthony Bevis and Richard Ford

Mr Michael Foot is expected to insist on the eventual disbandment of Bermondsey's left-wing Labour party if they refuse to replace their parliamentary candidate, Mr Peter Tatchell.

It was emphasized by many Labour MPs last night that whatever the merits of the case, the Labour leader could hardly retreat from his public repudiation of Mr Tatchell in the Commons on Thursday 29.

But Mr Tatchell, aged 29, said yesterday he had been tried and executed without the opportunity of stating his case. These MPs, they have never met me, they do not know my policies and they have given me no opportunity to speak in my own defence.

He denied that the Bermondsey party had been infiltrated by the far left and said that by extra-parliamentary activity - the phrase which prompted the Commons repudiation - he meant no more than the mass lobbying of Parliament.

If Mr Foot's confrontation with Bermondsey goes ahead it could take months, beginning with a meeting of the Labour executive's organization committee on Monday, and passing through to the full executive at the end of this month, before negotiations start with the local party executive.

But the Labour right is concerned that Mr Foot plans to turn Mr Tatchell into a whipping boy while ducking the demand for a complete purge of all Trotskyists from positions of influence in the party.

Mr Peter Shore, Shadow Chancellor, told a meeting at Swansea last night: "Of course, to those avowed Trotskyists and infiltrators, the turning over of seats, and the exposure to the light of day, will be as unwelcome as sun light to Dracula - and predictably, we shall hear plaintive cries of witchhunts and McCarthyism."

Mr Foot was committed to parliamentary democracy, to democratic socialism, and tolerance in a broad-based Labour party. But the party had a frontier on both the right and the left. That frontier must be guarded and widened, Mr Shore said.

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's deputy leader, is expected to tell a meeting in Leeds this afternoon that those responsible for the sectarian rifts of the past must be effectively dealt with. The entire Labour leadership is agreed that this is running out fast.

Mr Ron Hayward, general secretary, said in Warwickshire last night: "Time is not on our side, but we do have time to get it all together, if we start now."

Militant Tendency has already warned that there will be a hurricane of grass-roots protest if there is any move to attack its base in the party. But such demands, exists, and has been fired by Mr Foot.

Mr Mervyn Rees, another Shadow Cabinet member, said last night that in parts of London, where Labour representation was high but declining, "local councillors are being rejected by Star Chamber court methods". Small groups were organizing his

lists against elected Members of Parliament.

Mr Tatchell asked about his reaction to Mr Foot's comment in the Commons that he would never be an endorsed Labour candidate, said he had not had a chance to read Hansard and would make no comment until he had seen the party leader at Monday's meeting. But he said: "I am surprised in the way in which the thing has developed."

A tall, self-assured Australian, he gave a press conference yesterday flanked by senior members of the Bermondsey Labour party. He was a radical democratic socialist who supported parliamentary democracy, he said. He would not be fighting the election on far or ultra-left policies but on the official policy of the Labour party.

He was not a member of, and did not support, the Militant Tendency. Neither did he belong to any other group or faction in the party.

Asked what he meant by extra-parliamentary action he said he was referring to any form of political activity which took place outside parliament, such as peaceful mass protests. My support for a siege of parliament was really a restatement of the age-old form of political protest - the mass lobby of Parliament to demand housing, jobs and a better standard of living for the working-class people of this country.

The kind of extra-parliamentary activity he supported was the TUC's Day of Action and the People's March for Jobs. "My only wish is that all 250 Labour MPs had been marching shoulder to shoulder with the unemployed."

All the members of the Bermondsey party lived or worked locally. Their growth in numbers from 400 to more than 800 in 18 months was because the party was taking up local issues and fighting for local people.

Mr Tatchell supported equal rights and civil liberties for all minorities. He accused Mr James Wellbeloved, the SDP MP whose question in the Commons led to Mr Foot's intervention, of a "cheap political gimmick."

Livingstone support for Tatchell

The local party executive at Bermondsey fully supports Mr Tatchell. He was selected as candidate by most of the 70 members of the general management committee who attended the selection meeting in November. Mr Ted Bowman, acting chairman of the party, said: "He is going to be endorsed. There is no problem about it."

Mr Tatchell was also supported yesterday by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, who described him as an "excellent candidate".

One of Mr Benn's closest Commons allies, Mr Stuart Holland, MP, Vauxhall, said yesterday that Mr Foot should concentrate on advocating Labour policy in the country, rather than attacking individual candidates of the party.

Nevertheless, Mr Foot is expected to carry his case against Mr Tatchell on Monday, Mr Foot and the left, page 2

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Relief in the art world over higher grants

By Christopher Wrennan, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council, museums and galleries reacted with relief yesterday to the announcement of a 10 per cent increase in grants for 1982-83, which will nevertheless mean some reduction in spending.

They had expected worse news, with a cut in grants which would have meant the end of some of their activities, and the museums and galleries earlier in the week expressed fears that a failure of the grant to keep pace with inflation would mean closure.

The suddenly arranged announcement of the grant for next year by Mr. Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, certainly appeared to be an attempt by the Government to allay those fears.

In a Commons written reply yesterday he declared: "Some economies will be made in all other fields, but I believe that the increased allocations I am proposing are fair and reasonable."

He said later that his announcement should be "received with a sense of relief".

Mr. Channon said that the increase in grants was a "very real benefit to the balance of payments from tourism."

For the national museums and galleries, whose costs are dominated by wages and salaries, the provision for the year is a 10 per cent increase. The Arts Council said that the museum staff pay is kept to the next year. "Otherwise there would be a real danger that our guidelines will have done considerable damage to the public again."

Grants for the Arts		
	1981-82 Cash (£m)	1982-83 Cash (£m)
Arts Council	80,000	88,000
British Film Institute	8,400	7,014
National Film School	0,740	0,840
Crafts Council	1,600	1,600
South Bank Theatre Board	0,500	0,500
Public Lighting Board	0,293	0,300
British Museum	11,116	11,722
Imperial War Museum	3,944	4,130
National Gallery	5,597	5,841
National Portrait Gallery	1,089	1,130
National Maritime Museum	3,822	3,855
Tate Gallery	4,708	5,025
Wallace Collection	0,971	0,765
Science Museum	8,448	7,041
Victoria and Albert	8,950	8,576

Local purchase grants for 1981-82 are included in the figures for the Science Museum (£15,000) and the V and A Museum (£1m) which are not included in their 1982-83 totals.

Army bands face cut in their musicians

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Army's bands are likely to lose up to a quarter of their members in economies approved by the Army Board yesterday. The proposals have to be confirmed by Mr. John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence.

Senior officers, while cutting the number of soldiers, are trying to preserve most of the bands because of their value in boosting morale. There are some 23 big staff bands, belonging mainly to large regiments and corps such as the Royal Artillery (which has the biggest band of all) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

Most staff bands have 55 musicians, but the famous guards' bands have 66. Ordinary regimental bands have only about 30, often having the brunt of an earlier round of economies four years ago, when the number of army musicians was reduced by 25.

It is understood that at least one of the famous staff bands is likely to be abolished as the Army struggles to find the 7,000 manpower economies laid down in the Defence Review last summer. The band at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst may also disappear.

In addition all staff and regimental bands should be reduced to the minimum necessary to make the sound of music to which soldiers love to march.

The loss of several hundred more musicians would have an effect on the Army's war plans as well as its esprit de corps. On the battlefield, officers point out that as such they perform a vital function for which replacements would have to be found in an emergency.

DOCTORS TO CLAIM 12 PER CENT

Doctors are about to submit a pay claim of about 12 per cent for next year, three times as high as the government's 4 per cent public sector pay norm. It is understood doctors want at least 9 per cent to keep pace with average earnings next year.

That claim, and one for more than 13 per cent for junior hospital doctors, will be examined by the doctors' and dentists' independent review body with their recommendation going to the Government. Last year the review body award was cut, and other public sector workers will be watching the final settlement.

FLATS FOR OFFICIALS ATTACKED

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Conservatives on Sheffield City Council have attacked a Labour decision to give council flats to two officials with family incomes of about £20,000.

Both men have been in Sheffield for less than a year, and one has a house to sell in Coventry. The waiting list in the city is 19,000.

Mr. Paul Skelton and Mr. Geoffrey Green have given the tenancies of two flats in the Broomhall complex, where applicants must wait 19 months. They were appointed by the Labour-controlled council as strategy officers. Opposition councillors have dubbed them "the Politburo".

Both earn £10,700 a year, but one lives with a university lecturer and the other with a senior social worker. That boosts their joint incomes to more than £19,000 in one case and £21,000 in the other.

They were originally given temporary council accommodation in line with the council's policy of giving housing aid to key workers. They then applied for permanent tenancies, which were granted.

Councillor Graham Cheetham, Conservative shadow housing spokesman, said yesterday: "It is a scandal. It looks very much like preferential treatment. I agree there can be no means tests when allocating council houses, but I think these men must answer the question of whether it is right for council officials' high family incomes of around £20,000 to take subsidised accommodation."

Mrs. Christine Smith, a Conservative housing committee member, said: "I feel sorry for the many people who are patiently waiting their turn, I am furious over this affair and will raise the matter at the next housing committee."

Labour councillors denied that there had been preferential treatment or queue-jumping.

Mass hysteria theory as 46 pupils are taken ill

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Forty-six children in a Scottish primary school were taken to hospital yesterday believed to be suffering from mass hysteria. The rest of the 521 pupils were sent home.

Medical help was called to the school, St. Vincent's Primary, at East Kilbride, Strathclyde, after morning assembly, when about 40 children felt faint and dizzy. Several then fainted.

The headmistress called for medical help and 46 of the children were taken to hospital. All were sent home later.

The council spokesman said there was no trace of illness in those taken to hospital, and no gas leak was found.

He said there was a possibility that the fainting fits had been caused by a form of mass hysteria. As a precaution the rest of the school was dismissed for the day.

At the hospital Dr. Barry Vallance described what happened after the first boy fainted as a group reaction. He said no one taken to hospital from the school was seriously ill.

The hospital had received an assurance from the police, he added, that there was no cause for concern regarding a noxious substance.

Tory group accused of trying to destroy NUS

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Mr. David Aaronovitch, president of the National Union of Students, accused the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) last night of seeking to destroy the student union movement.

Speaking at the opening of the NUS national conference in Blackpool, he told the 700 delegates representing more than a million members that there were about thirty FCS delegates present, who he claimed, were out to disrupt and discredit the conference.

The FCS, whose membership has been declining in recent years and is now only about 14,000, has been increasingly virulent of late in its attacks on the NUS, and has been attempting, largely unsuccessfully, to persuade individual student unions to disaffiliate from the union.

Mr. Tim Linacre, the FCSM president, has pushed the Federation to the far right of the Conservative Party, issuing statements in support of Britain's "vital nuclear deterrent," welcoming the cuts in higher education and recommending the closure of three or four universities.

Most recently he welcomed the measure 4 per cent rise in the student grant as "both sensible and reasonable."

His extreme views have prompted Sir William van Straubenzee, Conservative MP for Wokingham and chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Education Committee, to write urging him to "change your present unhelpful attitude towards the NUS."

Mr. Linacre was "doing no service to students in general and Conservative students in particular by actively campaigning against the one body which can effectively represent student interests as a whole. Moreover, I believe you are seriously out of touch in your actions with the views of your rank and file," Sir William wrote.

□ School-leavers who are unemployed and decline to take up a place under the Government's planned new comprehensive education and training scheme for young people would forfeit all rights to social security benefits under government proposals to be announced in a White Paper before Christmas.

Under the present system full-time students are unlikely to get any financial assistance, whereas an unemployed youth aged 16 or 17 is eligible for £16.85 a week in supplementary benefits.



Mr. Michael Quinn, aged 35, who becomes chef de cuisine at the Ritz, London, on Monday. He is the first Briton to hold the post.

Solicitor to keep cottage until appeal

From Our Correspondent, London

The family evicted from a cottage under the owner's "buy-back" clause failed yesterday in a court plea to be allowed to return to the property until the dispute is tried in the High Court.

On November 23 the court of Appeal ruled that the issue of whether Mr. Richard Langdale, a solicitor, had taken unfair advantage of Mr. Thomas Danby when he sold him the cottage at Dale Road, Ellington, near Hull, should be heard in the High Court.

Lord Denning Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lords Justices Dunn and Fox, said the cottage, which is now empty, should remain in the hands of Mr. Langdale and his wife until the dispute was resolved.

Lord Denning said Mr. Danby and his family had been offered two council houses and were about to accept one. Mrs. Danby was cleaning it.

"It seems to me that it is very important that the present position should be preserved and that Mr. Danby and his wife should go into the council house and occupy it until the trial," he said.

Mr. Danby said he had been unable to carry on his business as a self-employed joiner because of the eviction and ill health.

Mr. Gerald Godfrey, QC, for Mr. Danby, said he was allowed to carry on his business from a council property.

Mr. John Samuels, QC, for Mr. Langdale, said that since the eviction Mr. Langdale's daughter had moved furniture into the cottage. Mr. Danby had never "overly" carried on his business at the cottage, and if he were to do so it would be in breach of express terms in the conveyance.

An application by Mr. Langdale for leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the decision to reopen the case was refused. Mr. Langdale can still seek leave directly.

Footmen's stolen goods were kept at palace

From Our Correspondent, London

Two royal footmen who stole gelignite and mining equipment to follow their hobby of caving, stored some of the stolen goods at Buckingham Palace, a court was told yesterday.

They claimed they plotted their crimes only because their jobs were so boring and lonely. Sometimes they had hardly any real work for days, they told Gloucester Crown Court.

Andrew Gildersleeve, aged 23, was jailed for 12 months and Stephen Bevis, aged 21, for nine months for their 15-month series of robberies involving goods valued at more than £5,000.

Judge Anthony Butler, who was told that no explosives were stored in the Palace, said their crimes were "serious but not sinister."

Both men were dismissed as soon as their crimes were discovered.

Police at Coleford, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, uncovered the offences when they spotted a Land-Rover with false plates being driven into a car park opposite the police station on July 18 last year.

It had been stolen from a local mining company. They kept watch when Gildersleeve, a deputy sergeant footman, returned to it they questioned him.

He first told them he had borrowed it from a farmer who removed soil from the Palace. But he later admitted it contained explosives.

Police recovered 85 sticks of gelignite and 30 detonators, and all had been "sweated" and all had been destroyed, Mr. Roger Evans, for the prosecution, said.

Gildersleeve told the police he wanted the explosives to blast his way into an old mine and he admitted that some of the equipment he had stolen was stored in a palace cellar used as a hobbies room.

Later Bevis was seen by police and both men made statements.

TGWU to end party vote chaos

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union, while publicly denying any embarrassment over its eccentric voting record in the Labour Party deputy leadership contest, is to draw up a new system for deciding which candidate to support in future elections.

Left-wing TGWU leaders attracted criticism from inside and outside their union two months ago when they voted for Mr. Wedgwood Benn after a hastily conducted branch ballot produced a majority for Mr. Denis Healey, the candidate of the centre-right.

Apparently recognising that they got the worst of both worlds by going out to the branches and then leaving the final decision to the elected lay executive, the transport workers are adopting a mechanism that will stand the test of time.

But the decision taken by the TGWU executive, to investigate at least four options, has not altered the view of Mr. Mostyn Evans, the general secretary, that the deputy leadership contest this year was unnecessary and should not be repeated before the next general election.

Mr. Evans said yesterday: "My view was that there ought not to be a battle for the leadership of the party. That is still my view now."

But he doubted whether the political upheaval created by the first operation of the Labour Party's electoral college would prevent it from winning the next election.

To leave it to the 40-strong TGWU power triumvirate, Mr. Evans, Mr. Alexander Kinson his deputy, and Mr. Larry Smith, executive officer with the union's political department will try to work out a criticism-proof mechanism with the rules.

The main options are: To confine the decision of whom to support to the lay executive council, which is divided in favour of the left; To increase the size of the party delegation, making it in effect a mini-electoral college more representative of the regions and trade groups; and To ballot the membership, either through a better organized vote of people who turn up to branch meetings or through a secret individual poll, as is done for the election of the general secretary.

£1m drugs found in tomb

From Our Correspondent, London

Three Turkish Cypriots were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of smuggling top-quality heroin into Britain in a tombstone. They will be sentenced later this month.

The cargo was discovered by customs officers at Blisworth in the back of a lorry which arrived from Cyprus in October, 1980. The tombstone was packed in a thin wooden crate among other packages.

Mr. Alan Hill, for the prosecution, said that the customs men sent for a customstoner, who found a secret compartment containing heroin with an estimated street value of £1.25m.

The stone was patched up and sent on to a warehouse in north London, where officers watched to see who collected it. A car arrived and drove away with the tombstone sticking out of the boot. Mr. Hill said.

"One of the men in the car realized they were being followed and started taking all manner of twists and turns to lose the tail. They succeeded, but not for very long."

The stone was eventually taken to Moray Road, Finsbury Park. Two days later the customs men found it in a garden.

Three men, all of London, were convicted of smuggling after a month-long trial. They are: Aysan Zynettin, aged 38, of Stamford Hill; Abdurrahman Mehmet, aged 37, of Canonbury; and Hali Must, aged 44, of Finsbury Park.

A fourth defendant, Mr. Yashar Osman, aged 45, of Camberwell, London, was found not guilty.

£95,866 bomb fund

From Our Correspondent, London

The fund for the family of Mr. Kenneth Howorth, the Metropolitan Police explosives officer killed by the IRA bomb in Oxford Street, has reached £95,866.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Helicopter in reverse rescue

A Royal Navy crew took a sick man aged 78 to Glasgow from the island of Islay yesterday after reversing their Sea King helicopter at a height of only 40 feet and a half over the sea. They flew through a storm with winds of up to 40 knots.

The Navy was called in after an ambulance plane made three unsuccessful attempts to land on the island, in the Inner Hebrides, where the airstrip has no landing aids.

The patient, suffering from bladder trouble, was taken to hospital in Glasgow.

Mother on murder charge

Mrs. Heather Lynn Booth, aged 31, of Darwin Grove, Bramhall, Stockport, Greater Manchester, appeared before Stockport magistrates yesterday charged with murdering her daughter Louise, aged two, at Hyde, Greater Manchester, on November 12 last year.

She was also accused of unlawfully and maliciously "administering a poison or noxious thing" to her other daughter, Teresa, aged seven, on October 29 and November 18 last.

There was no application for bail and Mrs. Booth was remanded in custody for a week.

Couple killed by soot fall

An elderly couple died after a gust of wind blew soot down their chimney, blocking the boiler flue, an inquest in Nottingham heard yesterday. Mr. David Baker, a gas board expert said that soot 6 in thick was blocking the air supply.

Mr. William Coggins, aged 72, and his wife Alice, aged 76, were found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning in their flat in Valley Road, Carlton, Nottinghamshire. Verdicts of accidental death were recorded.

Fraud woman got £6,000

An executive secretary who defrauded the Department of Health and Social Security of £5,000 while working for a shipping company in Glasgow was ordered at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday to do 240 hours community service work. Sheriff James Fildes, QC, imposed the maximum penalty under the scheme.

Mrs. Ann Lee, aged 32, a mother of three, of Opal Terrace, Bellshill, Lanarkshire, admitted obtaining £5,001.67 in benefits by fraud.

Ban urged on dangerous goods

Powers are needed to ban the supply of imported dangerous goods, the Institute of Trading Standards Administration said yesterday. Trading standards officers can prosecute only people who are selling the goods or keeping them for sale. They have no powers to cut off the supply by preventing wholesalers or importers from distributing the goods.

By the time offences are discovered and prosecuted potentially lethal goods have often been sold, the institute said.

Seamen end ferry sit in

Seamen on the P & O line's two Liverpool to Belfast ferries, ended a month-long sit-in yesterday after spending the morning making the vessels shipshape.

The crews say they won the dispute because P & O agreed to severance and suspended service payments. They will be first in line for new jobs if a buyer is found for the service.

One prospective purchaser, is believed to be Ocean Bank Developments, a new Dublin-based consortium.

Couple die in fire

The bodies of Mr. James Cochrane and his wife were found in the bedroom of a tenement in South Inch Place, Perth, yesterday, after a fire which badly damaged their top-floor flat.

Can you ease her loneliness?

Funny thing about time; it can go like lightning, which is what most of us find. Or it can drag on endlessly, empty and monotonous. For most old people time passes very slowly because they are lonely and bored. And those lonely, dragged out times occur far too often.

On a happy day an old lady may have a chat with an old friend and even have the chance to make a new one. Or she may enjoy a laugh at Ronnie Corbett on TV.

And like last year, she may be able to spend a week at a lovely seaside hotel. No shortage of friends there.

But most old people spend time feeling lonely and isolated.

Old people need more than care and attention - they need company and companionship. It doesn't cost very much to change the quality of their time. The National Benevolent Fund for the Aged seeks to ease loneliness by providing outings, TV sets and holidays for as many needy old people as money will allow. Every little bit you give can go a long way. Express your concern with a bequest, donation or covenant.

Through the NBF you can make a positive difference.

National Benevolent Fund for the Aged, 12 Liverpool Street, London EC2M 7NL.

Army officer drove car at traffic warden

From Our Correspondent, London

An army officer who twice drove his car at a traffic warden was fined a total of £200 yesterday. Andrew Whiteley, aged 26, of Cromwell Road, Colchester, Essex, a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps, admitted reckless driving and threatening behaviour when he appeared before the town's magistrates.

Mr. Donald Oates, for the prosecution, said that Mr. John Parry, a traffic warden, asked Whiteley to move his car, which was parked on the pavement outside a shop in the town.

Whiteley pushed him aside, swore, got into his car and lurched forward at Mr. Parry, who was standing in front of it. Whiteley reversed violently, causing pedestrians to jump out of his way, and lurched towards Mr. Parry again.

The officer leapt from the car, shouted and swore at the warden, snatched his notebook, tried to tear it up and threw it away. Whiteley, who then drove off, also threatened to "tell" Mr. Parry if he booked him.

Mr. Richard Pfanner, for Whiteley, said that the soldier had been acting second-in-command of his unit attached to a Nato-committed field force, and had been under extreme pressure.

An army spokesman said later that for an officer to be involved in an alleged case of breach of the peace would mean an automatic referral of the court's findings to the Army Board. "It is possible the board would require this officer to resign his commission," he said.

Militia gun fights end Beirut's five-week truce

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Dec 4

Beirut's carefully nurtured five-week ceasefire began to fragment this morning after a night of gun battles between militias loyal to Iran and Iraq. The two groups fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at each other in the heavily-populated Musheir district of the city until Syrian troops and Palestinian guerrillas helped to formulate a local truce at dawn.

Only four hours later, Lebanese police found two big bombs hidden near the city's busiest shopping streets. One of them, hidden under a rubbish bin off Hamra Street, a thoroughfare lined with boutiques and cheap cafes, was defused just 30 minutes before it was due to explode. Near the Kuwait embassy, eight bombs were dismantled with only five minutes to spare, according to the police.

Few Lebanese believed that the five-week truce would last any longer than the hundreds of ceasefires that preceded it. The more cynical politicians here had already observed that the most recent truce had only been imposed before the PLO Arab summit in order to keep Lebanon off the conference agenda and that once the summit had ended fighting would recommence in Beirut.

Last night's fighting, in which at least one gunman died, involved mostly Kurdish guerrillas. A small proxy war between Iraqi and Iranian supporters has been going on in Lebanon for almost two years and the participants presumably do not regard themselves as bound by the ceasefire rules agreed between the Palestinians, Syrians and

Raid hero tries to calm Sinai militants

From Christopher Walker, Yamit, Sinai, Dec 4

General Dan Shomron, leader of the Entebbe raid and commander of the southern front, today joined a long list of prominent Israelis who have personally intervened in an effort to calm the growing militancy among Jewish settlers due to be evacuated from their Sinai homes before April 25.

The general, one of Israel's most popular military heroes, arrived at the desert town of Yamit this morning to find the heavy entrance gates welded shut and barricaded with barbed wire and piles of tyres.

Looking down on the barricades was a sandbagged watch tower containing a crude effigy of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, who is condemned by many of the settlers for his part in signing the Camp David accords. One of the Hebrew posters attached to the fence warned the general: "And this is only the beginning."

Over the past 48 hours, the town has been the scene of violent protests which culminated in the burning of a number of government buildings. Last night vigilantes wearing helmets and wielding cudgels appeared to resist a rumoured Army move against the blockade.

The latest unrest in Yamit, the largest settlement due to be handed back to Egypt, began on Wednesday night when residents blocked all three entrance roads through the high security fence in protest against the lack of negotiations over compensation for local businessmen.

Today, leaders of the protest were anxious to distinguish their campaign from that of another group of Sinai residents who are preparing to resist the evacuation because they insist that the occupied area is part of the Biblical land of Israel.

More than 60 families have arrived in Yamit and the surrounding desert town in an effort to fill every house vacated by those Jews prepared to accept the Government's terms and leave peacefully. Over 20 of the families have recently taken over the houses of those who have been dragging on for two years and have come to nothing.

The General Assembly tonight asked Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, to consult and co-operate with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, the representative of the Palestinian people in preparing a report on the Palestinians (AP reports from New York).

The resolution called for "a comprehensive report on the deteriorating living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", and condemned Israel for those conditions.



Police help victims of torrential rain through the mud and wreckage of their homes in Teresopolis, Brazil. The flooding has killed 43 people and made 700 homeless in the Rio de Janeiro area.

'Collective security' plea by Haig

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Dec 4

Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, today pledged the United States to prevent any Central American country from becoming a platform for terror and war and offered a new programme of economic assistance to the region.

He repeated his attacks on Cuba, whose activities have resulted in what he described as "terror for the innocent".

He told the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States in St Lucia: "The United States is prepared to do whatever is necessary to prevent any country in Central America from becoming a platform for terror and war in the region." But that would stop short of the use of United States troops.

The main thrust of his speech was a warning against intervention which, he said, should be opposed by 'collective security'.

"The other nations of Central America must also be asking about the meaning of these militant activities. They fear—and we must all fear—that the future may hold a costly arms race at the expense of economic development and social progress. They fear—and we must all fear—that the future may hold a costly arms race at the expense of economic development and social progress. They fear—and we must all fear—that the future may hold a costly arms race at the expense of economic development and social progress."

Why Malta banned 'Times' from its election campaign

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Dec 4

The issue in the forthcoming Maltese elections is whether Mr Dom Mintoff will be re-elected Prime Minister or replaced by Mr Eddie Fenech Adami. There is no such obvious simplicity about the reason for the banning by the Maltese Government of any representative of *The Times* in the campaign which ends on December 12.

The irrational is necessarily disconcerting. The Maltese embassy here admits to being totally unable to interpret the Government's ban, either as a decision governed by political considerations or as an issue that can only appear large to the small minded.

The realities of the contest are obscured by the Government's own concentration on eccentric details in its dealing with the world's press.

A German television team has just been expelled. I was myself earlier this year in Malta as part of an attempt to explain that the quarrel already existing between *The Times* and the Maltese Government was not a question

of our side, of great significance or of unfairness.

The Director of Information of the Maltese Government had complained about the contents of a comparatively brief dispatch from our Malta correspondent and had written a long letter of rebuke to *The Times*.

At the same time he forbade the sale of *The Times* in Malta and this ban continues. The letter was not published. It remains the formal basis for the Maltese Government's refusal to allow a representative of *The Times* to follow the electoral campaign.

This was not, however, the only issue involved. I had, as usual before visiting a foreign country, informed the Maltese embassy here of my plans and had asked them to make arrangements for me to meet the Government press authorities.

A day after this request had been made I was told by the Maltese embassy that there were complications and that I should telephone personally to the Director of Information of

the Maltese Government. He told me once again that the letter had been unanswered but he added other accusations.

He said that after my last visit to Malta, which had been in connection with the ban on the sale of *The Times*, I had written articles from Rome which were "untruthful and critical of us".

I was surprised because the one article I had written from Rome seemed to me to be a modestly sensible attempt to describe Mr Mintoff's outlook in the most favourable way possible. My only long conversation with him had been when he was in opposition and he then had proved a stimulating speaker.

When I pressed the Government spokesman to back up his accusation he said: "You attacked our health service." When I suggested mildly that he might have misheard what I said as I had not written about the health service or confused with someone else, he added: "Whatever you have written we know that privately you speak badly of us behind our backs."

Reagan steps up security in wake of Libyan threat

From Nicholas Bist, Washington, Dec 4

President Reagan has ordered Secret Service protection for his three top White House aides as Intelligence and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents search the country for a five-man Libyan assassination squad.

A report today in *The New York Times* says law enforcement agencies have been given detailed evidence by an unnamed informant that a Libyan hit-team entered the country at the weekend intent on killing President Reagan, his family, or senior Administration officials.

"They want to make a sensation," a senior law enforcement officer said. "If they can't get the President, they're apparently under instructions to kill anyone close to him."

At first, *The New York Times* says, officers were sceptical of continuing reports that a Libyan hit-team was trying to kill the President, but the informant, who was not an American, had remained

credible after intensive questioning.

Security for the President and for Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has been tightened. Administration officials confirmed yesterday that Secret Service protection had been ordered for Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, Mr James Baker, the Chief of Staff, and Mr Michael Deaver, his deputy.

Intelligence sources said that Mr Maxwell Rabb, the United States Ambassador to Italy, was hastily flown out of Milan in October because of fear that he was the subject of a Libyan assassination plot.

The sources said Air Force One, the Presidential aircraft, had been equipped with electronic equipment to evade a missile attack. Mr Reagan was riding in unmarked cars instead of his official limousine.

The Secret Service had recently begun sending decoy motorcades through Washington.

EEC may block aid to Turkey

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 4

The European Commission has taken the political initiative in deciding to recommend a block on its latest aid package for Turkey, following the decision to tell Mr Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister.

The European Council is being advised by the Commission not to approve this E290m Fourth Financial Protocol, which has been ready for final signature since June. In doing so it has expressed its regret and concern at the four-month prison sentence confirmed on Mr Ecevit for defying the country's military rulers.

The Commission called in the Turkish Ambassador to the Community at the beginning of last month to warn him that the sentence had given rise to real doubts as to whether or not Turkey was really going through with its promised process for a return to democracy.

This message was repeated personally by Mr Gaston Thery, the Commission President, to the Turkish Foreign Minister on November 18.

The Commission has been particularly concerned about the democratic evolution inside Turkey in view of its application to become a full member of the Community. It continued to negotiate the aid package in the hope that democracy would be developing in parallel.

The sentence on Mr Ecevit, despite the warnings, has crushed this hope, at least for the time being, and has led the Commission to recommend blocking the aid.

The amount of aid involved is too small to have any significant financial impact on the Turkish economy, and as the Turkish Embassy to the Community today the Commission decision was seen clearly as an attempt to interfere in domestic Turkish politics.

A spokesman at the embassy said that his country felt that the decision about the aid was one which should be taken by the Council and not by the Commission, which he felt should have no say in such an affair.

He added: "Such pressure has never succeeded in the past, so I don't see why it should now."

Leading article, page 7

Ankara tells Weinberger of Soviet military threat

From Simon Fisk, Ankara, Dec 4

Turkish Defence Ministry officials today briefed Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, on "the Soviet order of battle against Turkey", which an American defence source said was an impressive display of force and a threat to the North Atlantic alliance as a whole.

The talks between Mr Weinberger and Mr Haluk Bayraktar, Turkey's Defence Minister, centred on the security of the West in general, with particular emphasis on improving defence cooperation between Turkey and the United States.

Diplomats here believed that Turkey would turn more and more to Washington after West European Nato countries halted aid to Turkey to mark their displeasure with the military rulers' method of restoring democracy.

Turkish officials today did not directly ask the United States to intervene with other allies such as West Germany, a source said, but he believed it was clear that Turkey hopes the Reagan Administration will do so.

Turkish officials expressed "a strong desire to return to a stable democracy", and the United States believed this

would be achieved, "not because of outside pressures, but because it is what the Turkish nation believes it wants".

The source said the two countries have also decided to set up a high-level working group to discuss a wide range of other things, speed up delivery of weapons to Turkey, and facilitate the operation of the defence and economic aid agreement.

Turkish officials told Mr Weinberger that they were ready to cooperate with the alliance as a whole for participation in a rapid deployment force in case of an outside threat to Nato.

Both sides said they hoped Mr Alexander Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, would not put his campaign rhetoric into action and that Athens would stand by its commitments to Nato.

Most diplomats here saw in Mr Weinberger's visit—which will conclude with a meeting in Ankara on December 13 by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State—as an implicit pro-Turkish stand by the Reagan Administration in response to Mr Papandreu's threats.

Britain offers help to Seychelles

By David Cross

Ferrari explained that about £1m was needed to repair what he described as the "unlucky" of his country's economy.

For the first time since last week's attempted coup, the airport was reopened yesterday to allow about 500 tourists who have been stranded to return to Europe.

The first plane-load of mainly British tourists was due to arrive at Heathrow last night. In the Seychelles, where a curfew remains in force from dusk to dawn, the authorities said they were still looking for three mercenaries who are thought to have escaped from fighting at the airport eight days ago.

Britain is still seeking consular access to two other men with British passports who are among five people captured by the Seychelles authorities.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman has said that the United States is in contact with six other countries, including Britain, who

signed a 1978 agreement in Bonn to cease all flights to a country which refuses to extradite or prosecute hijackers.

Britain said yesterday that it had not yet heard from Washington officially, which suggests that the Americans are in no great hurry to pursue the matter any further.

In Port Elizabeth, Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, said he would quell some of the criticism by letting it be known that his Government was considering legislation to ban members of its armed services from serving as mercenaries.

Mr Denis Healey, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, last night accused the South African Government of being behind the failed coup.

He also condemned Pretoria for breaching an international convention by failing to prosecute or repatriate the hijackers and said Britain should stop all flights in and out of South Africa.

SPACE 'KILLER' CLAIM DENIED

The United States Defence Department has denied an earlier report that the Soviet Union has assembled and tested a 'killer satellite' (our Foreign Staff writes).

The latest issue of *Aviation Week* identifies the killer satellite—capable of attacking other spacecraft—as Cosmos 1567, docked with the Salyut 6 space station since June.

"From what we know of the Soviet space programme we cannot conclude that they have the system described in the *Aviation Week* article," a Defence Department spokesman said.

Mugabe wages policy upsets businessmen

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Dec 4

Industrialists and farming groups today said the Zimbabwe Government's latest stride towards its egalitarian ideal, that of reducing wage disparity, was a step in the wrong direction.

Their criticism came as the government announced a new policy of wage control, which would limit the amount that may be paid to higher wage earners and foreshadowed the introduction of price controls.

The increases, to be introduced on January 1, will raise the minimum wage for industrial and commercial workers from \$265 (about £65) to \$210, and for domestic and farm workers from \$230 to \$250.

Mr Abner Botsh, the black president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe, said the increases would have to be passed on to the consumer and could force businesses to close unless this were recognized in any future price policy.

The spokesman for the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association said the impact of the 66 per cent increase was of great concern. Tobacco is Zimbabwe's main foreign currency earner. "The body recognized the need for wage increases but cannot understand an increase of this nature," he said.

Mr James Sinclair, the president of the Commercial Farmers Union, said the increases could lead to a serious decline in agricultural production and potentially massive reduction in employment.

The proposals also appear certain to disturb urban whites who employ more than 100,000 domestic servants.

Mr Mugabe, anticipating that both farmers and domestic employers may try to get rid of their workers rather than pay the increases, said that no dismissals would be permitted.

That might be difficult to enforce, and the Government appears to have gambled that

both groups will be unwilling or unable to dispense with these services.

The announcement represents the Government's first public reaction following a full study of the report by the Riddell Commission on incomes, prices and conditions of service.

In dealing with both the lowest and highest paid, the Government has taken more radical action than the course proposed by the Riddell Commission, although the Prime Minister said that in general the commission's recommendations were in harmony with the Government's approach.

Whereas the commission suggested that those earning more than \$220,000 a year should receive increases restricted to the rate of inflation, the Cabinet decision ruled out any increase for this group unless there were special circumstances. At the other end, the increases are well in excess of those suggested in the report.

Mr Sinclair, a member of the commission, who supported its recommendations, said that the new levels "completely disregarded" the Riddell proposals for phased increases over a period of three years. He had been expecting the agricultural wage to go up by about a third, he said.

Mr Roger Riddell, chairman of the commission, said that he was pleased that the Government had accepted in general terms what he said.

Mr Mugabe said that the new figure still did not take workers up to the estimated urban poverty datum line for a family of six (\$2128) and that he did not accept that the amount was adequate compensation for farm workers.

On the possibility of price controls being introduced, Mr Mugabe said the Government did not want to see increases in wages being nullified by sudden price rises. "It is my belief that while we have made a positive move in meeting the expectations of the lesser-paid

B1 bomber plan wins Senate vote

Washington, Dec 4.—President Reagan's plan to spend \$180,000m (£100,000m) on modernising American strategic nuclear forces over the next six years seemed certain to go ahead after a vote in the Senate last night.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the proposal to build 100 B1 bombers, described by opponents as the most expensive weapons systems ever undertaken by the United States.

By 66 votes to 28, it quashed an attempt by a group of Democrats to have the money spent instead on improving the forces' combat readiness and on conventional arms, aircraft and ships.

Earlier, the Senate conditionally endorsed the President's plan for building 100 MX missiles, the other controversial element in his nuclear arms package.

The House of Representatives has already approved the two weapons systems.

Although the Senate never seemed likely to defeat his proposals, Mr Reagan intervened personally to assist his victory.

He also wrote to the Senate before the MX missile vote saying that a defeat would undermine the American position in the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union in Geneva on limiting medium range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The B1 bomber is to enter service in 1986, gradually replacing the aging fleet of 350 B52s.

Mr Reagan said that the new figure still did not take workers up to the estimated urban poverty datum line for a family of six (\$2128) and that he did not accept that the amount was adequate compensation for farm workers.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Ceausescu's peace spectacular

Bucharest.—With a spectacular peace march through the centre of Bucharest which is expected to attract 500,000 Romanians in a surprise demonstration, President Ceausescu will be winding up his peace campaign today (Dessa Tretian writes).

Romania is joining the European peace movement in a big way and everything is being subordinated to it. But unlike in West European counterparts, the entire country is engaged in it, organized, drilled, and conducted by President Ceausescu.

Mr Ceausescu is to address the rally. He has also appealed to Western nations to "reduce and gradually remove all medium-range missiles from the European part of Russia and to President Reagan to freeze the deployment of new missiles and to resume the nuclear ban."

Compromise on US budget cuts

Washington.—President Reagan today agreed on compromise with Republicans to lead on budget cuts for fiscal year 1982. He originally wanted cuts of \$8,400m (£5,600m) but has agreed to a \$4,000m (£2,600m) cut, a compromise agreed by Congress last week in a resolution which he vetoed.

The veto deprived the Administration of the power to spend money on all but essential services resulting in a one-day shutdown of many government offices.

Trudeau thanks Thatcher

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, yesterday thanked Mrs Margaret Thatcher for the British Government's patience and forbearance while Canadian political leaders haggled over proposed changes to the constitution (Our Foreign Staff writes).

During their transatlantic telephone conversation Mrs Thatcher and Mr Trudeau also discussed the timetable for British approval of the partition of the Canadian constitution and the time when the House of Commons, the British will also be asked to endorse a rights charter.

A first reading of what will be called the Canada Bill, may be possible before the Christmas recess on December 23. If there are no major objections the Bill should be ready for signing by the Queen late February or early March.

Recount leaves Kean winner

Mr Thomas Kean, the Republican candidate, has become Governor of New Jersey by 1,577 votes, Mr James Florio his Democratic opponent conceded this week.

Mr Florio had held out demanding a computer recount of the 2.3 million votes cast, and during the four weeks since the election he had been making official public preparation for taking over the reins of government, bearing the cost of \$40,000 (£20,000) from campaign funds.

Although 3,000 votes changed sides Mr Kean's lead remained unimpaired.

Why Sir Probyn lost his job

Sir Probyn, India was dismissed as Governor of the Associated state of St Kitts-Nevis because the working relationship between him and the island's Prime Minister, Mr Kennedy Simmonds, had broken down irrevocably, MPs were told.

In a Commons written reply to Dr Edmund Marshall (Lab, South), Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said the island's Prime Minister, Mr Kennedy Simmonds, had asked for his resignation.

Sir Probyn, aged 45, was dismissed in November at the end of a long constitutional dispute.

Arms seized in ministry building

Rome.—An arms cache including submachine guns, rifles, pistols and bombs has been discovered in the Italian Ministry of Health building. A ministry guard has been arrested.

The arms were allegedly found in his flat, which is in the ministry building. Police said the weapons were hired to common criminals and right-wing extremists.

Africans press for their UN candidate

New York.—The 50-nation African group at the United Nations is making a final effort to persuade the United States to endorse the candidacy of Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister as Secretary-General.

The group were today debating the decision made yesterday by Dr Kurt Waldheim that he would not seek reelection, through balloting by the council members.

Syrian reshuffle

Damascus.—Mr Abdul-Rauf al-Kaam, the Syrian Prime Minister, partly reshuffled his 37-man cabinet, changing nine ministries. The existing government was formed in January, 1980.

El Salvador junta urged to consult guerrillas

From Our Correspondent New York, Dec 4

A largely Western-sponsored resolution asking the Salvadoran government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte to initiate pre-election negotiations with the left-wing insurgents trying to overthrow him was adopted today at the committee level of the United Nations General Assembly.

The vote, with 65 in favour, 21 against and 54 abstentions, failed to give the committee the means to send a clear message to El Salvador.

The number of fence-sitters gave the United States a victory of sorts because its isolation in the Western camp was not all that apparent at first glance. Washington is in the middle of a campaign supporting the Salvadoran junta while at the same time criticising Nicaragua for its backing of the Revolutionary Front.

Most West European countries supported the resolution and by proxy opposed the United States, while Britain attempted to act as a bridge-builder and abstained.

El Salvador today said allegations in the resolution that it had committed grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms were "a lie" and that the resolution itself was an "intervention in its internal affairs."

France, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands, Algeria, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Nicaragua sponsored the draft, which for the first time tied together social and political aspects in El Salvador.

Solidarity warns Government of strike action

Warsaw, Dec 4. — Solidarity

demanded important political concessions today as a condition for joining the Communists in a national front, and gave a warning that it would bring the nation out on strike if the authorities declared a state of emergency.

The unions demands, published after a meeting of regional chiefs, came in response to a government crackdown which brought troops and riot police into action in Warsaw on Wednesday to break a strike by cadet firemen.

The demands are subject to adoption by the union's national commission, which meets on Gdansk next week, but they spell out for the first time Solidarity's official position on joining the Communist-sponsored national front.

The union accused the Communists of promoting a facade and called for free local elections, access to the mass media, a Solidarity version of a trade union law, a halt to reprisals against union activists, fully fledged economic reform, and union control over food and the economy as minimum conditions for national accord.

The Communist establishment has opposed most of the demands on the grounds that they are politically unacceptable.



45 killed in tower panic

Forty-five people were killed yesterday inside one of India's great monuments, the 800-year-old Qutab Minar tower (above) on the outskirts of Delhi. (Trevor Fishlock writes from Delhi).

They were trampled in a stampede on the worn and slippery spiral staircase. According to reports, there was panic among the estimated 400 people in the tower when the lights went out.

Many of the dead and injured were schoolchildren and college students. Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, went to the scene of the disaster and later visited injured people in hospital.

The disaster might have been even worse. The Qutab Minar always attracts crowds, especially on Fridays, and hundreds were queuing to get in.

The tower is 237 ft high and has 378 steps. It was started in the twelfth century and completed in the fourteenth.

Reagan red carpet for Jonas Savimbi

From Nicholas Ashford Washington, Dec 4

When Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Angolan insurgent leader, visited Washington two years ago, the Carter Administration refused him access to senior officials. This week he has been accorded red-carpet treatment by President Reagan.

Yesterday Dr Savimbi, who heads the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) which is fighting a bush war against the left-wing Government in Luanda, had talks with Mr Walter Stoessel, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs, and Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs.

In the absence of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and his deputy, Mr William Clark, both of whom are abroad, Mr Stoessel is the most senior official in the State Department. Dr Savimbi is also seeing a number of other senior officials and other people of influence in Washington.

A State Department spokesman, emphasising that Dr Savimbi's visit was a private one, said that the United States considered Unita to be a legitimate political force in Angola which had to be taken into account. The Administration was taking advantage of his visit to Washington to exchange views.

The high-level reception accorded to Dr Savimbi will not be welcomed by the Angolan Government, which has no formal diplomatic relations with the United States. Angola claims that Unita insurgents are being backed by South Africa, and that the presence of 12,000 Cuban troops in Angola is necessary to combat this joint Unita-South African threat.

Lisbon: Angola says the Savimbi visit represents interference by the Reagan Administration in its internal affairs, according to reports reaching Lisbon (AP reports).

A dispatch from the Angolan news agency Angop, which normally echoes the policies of the ruling NPLA party, also cited Associated Press and United Press International reports as quoting Dr Savimbi as saying his visit to New York was undertaken in search of more military aid.

Dr Savimbi's visit to the United States confirmed "the policy of interference in the internal affairs of Angola

The day our correspondent became a 'convict' Ensnared in Ciskei's web of eager informers

From Michael Hornsby, Zwelitsha, Ciskei, Dec 4

Major General Charles Sebe, of the intelligence service of the newly independent Ciskei Homeland and brother of its ruler, Chief Lennox Sebe, was jostled by a bowing and scraping local headman who was busy-shepherding women and children — there are few in Ciskei since they have to go outside its borders to find work — into two buses for a "spontaneous" visit to the independence celebrations in the new stadium further north.

We did not know it at the time, but we had already been ensnared in what General Sebe later proudly called "my spider's web" of informers. Emerging from the dusty track leading back to the main road through Mdantsane, Ciskei's biggest township, we were headed off by two police cars with flashing lights.

Proffered press cards were to no avail. Our presence was unauthorised, a plain clothed official with the police insisted. His orders were to take us to headquarters at Zwelitsha, 20 miles away. Under police escort, with the surly plain clothes man in the back seat, we set off.

A black student, whose mother lived in Portlouis and to whom we had given a lift from East London, was by now badly frightened. Clearly fearing the worst, he slipped

SCHLEYER MURDERER GIVEN LIFE

Düsseldorf, Dec 4. —

Stefan Wisniewski, a member of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist gang, was sentenced today to life imprisonment for his part in the killings in 1977 of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the industrialist, and his four associates.

The Düsseldorf district court found Herr Wisniewski, aged 28, guilty of murder, kidnapping, attempted compulsion, and membership of a terrorist gang. He frequently interrupted the judge reading the sentence.

During the year-long trial Herr Wisniewski refused to give details about himself or to answer questions.

Sultry Miss Turner fails to cheer up the Poles

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 4

Poles were briefly allowed to forget their economic and political crisis this week and concentrate on the gold lame microskirt of Tina Turner, the sultry American singer of the 1960s and beyond.

All, however, did not go according to plan. The energetic Miss Turner, not showing her 40 or 50 years but showing almost everything else, appeared at Warsaw's ice hockey stadium determined that politics should be left alone and that everyone should snatch a brief moment of joy.

At first the young audience who included a group of Soviet soldiers in full dress uniform sitting at the back of the stadium, were a little baffled by Miss Turner's athletic charm, beehive hair style and precarious high heels.

The audience began to

FARE CUTS TROUBLE AIRLINES

By Our Transport Correspondent

America's controversial free market policy for air fares, which has led to cut-throat competition and big fare cuts on both domestic and international routes, may have to be changed, Mr Ed Meyer, president of Trans World Airlines said in London today.

He said the policy was clearly wrong on international routes because it meant exporting United States domestic regulations to countries and governments which simply "don't share our fervour for a free market."

Domestically, it had still to be shown if the policy, launched by President Carter and retained by President Reagan, was in the long-term interests of the consumer, Mr Meyer said.

In order to work it would have to produce higher fares

France invalidates four elections

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 4

M Alain Peyrefitte, former Minister of Justice in the Barre Government, will be a candidate for the National Assembly in a forthcoming by-election at Provins, east of Paris. The by-election is caused by the decision of the Constitutional Council to invalidate the poll along with three others held in the general election, because of irregularities.

On June 21, M Peyrefitte lost to a Socialist by 186 votes out of nearly 60,000 the seat he had held uninterrupted since 1958. Of the four elections invalidated, two in the provinces were won by Socialists, one in Paris by a left-wing Gaullist, backed by the Socialists, and one by a veteran Gaullist.

These by-elections will be held before the cantonal elections in March, which the left is expected to win. It will benefit from the redrawing of constituency boundaries in the last three months and from the regional reform which transfers effective power, and therefore local subsidies, from the prefects to the elected head of departmental assemblies.

The by-elections, therefore, will be a more accurate test of the real mood of public opinion after nearly nine months of Socialist Government, even though French voters do not like their verdict to be called into question.

Some leaders of the Opposition consider that the four by-elections could mark the beginning of what most of them agree will be its slow reconquest of power, and a pointer for the municipal elections of 1983. They hope that history will repeat itself.

Spare the rules, spoil the child.

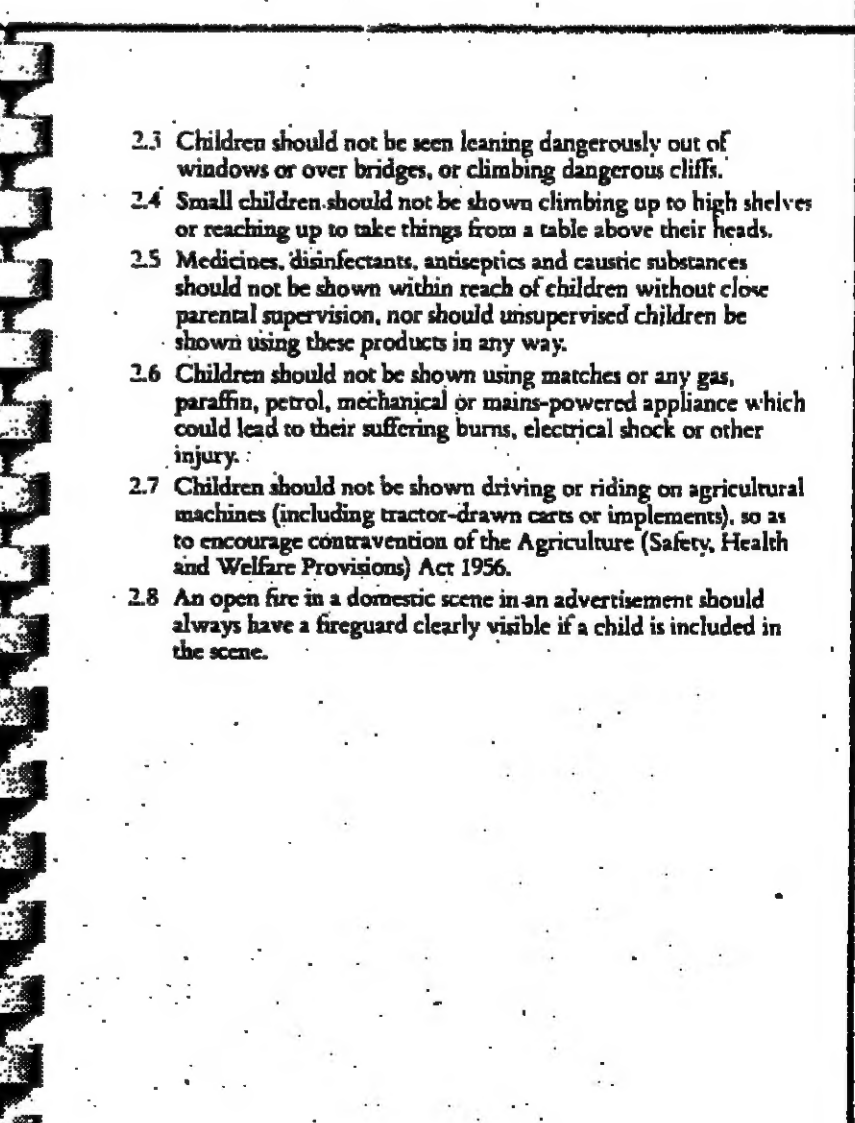
A child is sometimes the most susceptible and vulnerable consumer of all. Which is why any advertising aimed at children needs tight control. Hence the rules on the right.

They appear in a book called the British Code of Advertising Practice. In it are many rules, not just affecting children's advertising. They govern all advertisements which appear in the press, in direct mail, in print, on posters and cinema commercials.

The Code is used by the Advertising Standards Authority whose job it is to protect the public from unacceptable advertising. (To help us interpret and develop the Code, we have recently carried out research into children's reactions to advertisements.)

Amongst other things, the ASA responds to consumers' complaints, and this briefly is the way the system works. Members of the public can write to us to complain about any advertisement they find unacceptable. If, after investigation, we find the advertise-

- Appendix B Children
- General
- 1.1 Direct appeals or exhortations to buy should not be made to children unless the product advertised is one likely to be of interest to them which they could reasonably be expected to afford for themselves.
 - 1.2 Advertisements should not encourage children to make themselves a nuisance to their parents, or anyone else, with the aim of persuading them to buy an advertised product.
 - 1.3 No advertisement should cause children to believe that they will be inferior to other children, or unpopular with them, if they do not buy a particular product, or have it bought for them.
 - 1.4 No advertisement for a commercial product should suggest to children that, if they do not buy it or encourage others to do so, they will be failing in their duty or lacking in loyalty.
 - 1.5 Advertisements addressed to children should make it easy for a child to judge the true size of a product (preferably by showing it in relation to some common object) and should take care to avoid any confusion between the characteristics of real-life articles and toy copies of them.
 - 1.6 Where the results obtainable by the use of a product are shown, these should not exaggerate what is attainable by an ordinary child.
 - 1.7 Advertisements addressed to children should where ever possible give the price of the advertised product.
- Safety
- 2.1 No advertisement, particularly for a collecting scheme, should encourage children to enter strange places or to converse with strangers in an effort to collect coupons, wrappers, labels or the like.
 - 2.2 Children should not appear to be unattended in street scenes unless they are obviously old enough to be responsible for their own safety; should not be shown playing in the road, unless it is clearly shown to be a play-street or other safe area; should not be shown stepping carelessly off the pavement or crossing the road without due care; in busy street scenes should be seen to use the zebra crossings when crossing the road; and should be otherwise seen in general, as pedestrians or cyclists, to behave in accordance with the Highway Code.
 - 2.3 Children should not be seen leaning dangerously out of windows or over bridges, or climbing dangerous cliffs.
 - 2.4 Small children should not be shown climbing up to high shelves or reaching up to take things from a table above their heads.
 - 2.5 Medicines, disinfectants, antiseptics and caustic substances should not be shown within reach of children without close parental supervision, nor should unsupervised children be shown using these products in any way.
 - 2.6 Children should not be shown using matches or any gas, paraffin, petrol, mechanical or mains-powered appliance which could lead to their suffering burns, electrical shock or other injury.
 - 2.7 Children should not be shown driving or riding on agricultural machines (including tractor-drawn cars or implements), so as to encourage contravention of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.
 - 2.8 An open fire in a domestic scene in an advertisement should always have a fireguard clearly visible if a child is included in the scene.



ment contravenes the Code, we instruct the advertiser to amend or withdraw the advertisement.

If you would like to know more about the Code on advertisements addressed to children, or about us, or if you have any cause to complain

about an advertisement, we'd like to hear from you. If an advertiser breaks one of the rules, we won't let him get off lightly.

The Advertising Standards Authority.
If an advertisement is wrong, we're here to put it right.
ASA Ltd, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.

the danger for the Social Democrats is different. It is that they will be extreme in that by going off in different directions they may reinforce the impression of a



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HOW TO KEEP AN ALLY

It was no doubt a coincidence, but an unfortunate one, that Mr. Caspar Weinberger arrived in Ankara on the same day that Mr. Bülent Ecevit, the former Turkish prime minister, began serving his four-month prison sentence. It has in any case served to highlight the difference in attitudes to current developments in Turkey between the United States and Western Europe. While Mr. Weinberger is in Ankara discussing closer defence ties between Turkey and the United States, and President Reagan has asked Congress for substantially increased aid to Turkey in 1982, the European Commission has withdrawn its recommendation for a £250m aid package that has been awaiting signature since June, and both the Danish and West German governments have indicated their intention of withholding their contributions to the \$973m package pledged through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. More symbolically, it now seems increasingly likely that Turkey will be expelled from the Council of Europe early next year.

The difference is uncomfortably reminiscent of the one which arose over the Greek dictatorship between 1967 and 1974, when the colonels simultaneously languished in the European doghouse and backed in the favour of the Johnson and Nixon administrations. That was also the period when the European Community was insisting on the need for democracy in Spain and Portugal, while the United States was condoning if not actively supporting dictatorship in Latin America.

In the mid 1970s many Americans recognized that this had been a short-sighted as well as unethical policy, and under President Carter a determined effort was made to re-establish America's reputation as the worldwide promoter of democracy and human rights. Under Mr. Reagan that effort has not been sustained.

The Greeks are still showing the symptoms of an acute anti-Americanism, acquired largely as a result of their experiences in 1967-74. It would be sad indeed, and dangerous, if the Turks, particularly those liberal-minded sections of the Turkish community that Mr. Ecevit represents, were to be infected with the same disease.

Against that argument the Turkish military regime and its American supporters can reasonably plead that the Greek and Turkish cases are not really comparable. The Greek coup of 1967 was carried out by a clique of ambitious and fanatical officers to prevent an election in which a very moderate left-wing party had every prospect of assuming power quite peacefully. The Turkish coup of 1980 was undertaken by the senior commanders of the armed forces to save the country from endemic terrorism at a time when its elected political leaders had manifestly failed to overcome partisan squabbles and measure up to the gravity of the crisis. The coup was widely welcomed by the population and its necessity was more or less acknowledged by the political leaders themselves. It is generally admitted that the military regime has done a

good job in greatly reducing the level of political violence and in providing the necessary stability for at least a partial economic recovery.

For all those reasons Europeans as well as Americans were initially willing to give the new regime the benefit of the doubt. But more searching doubts are justified now that fifty-two prominent Turkish trade unionists are to go on trial, facing possible death sentences, on December 24 — a date surely chosen deliberately to ensure the minimum of publicity in Christian countries, now that newspapers are being closed, and journalists arrested, for purely verbal criticisms of the regime expressed in quite unflattering language; now that all political parties have been permanently dissolved; their property put up for sale and all former politicians banned from standing in future elections.

Suppression of terrorism is certainly vital, and sweeping measures for a short time can certainly be justified. But it is most unlikely that violence can be permanently suppressed by the systematic repression of criticism, by the exclusion from politics of all those for whom in the past people have actually been willing to vote or by the entrusting of constituent powers to a hand-picked assembly of conservative bureaucrats.

Turkey's very strategic importance makes it vital that its people, not just its military leaders, remain firm friends of the West. Uncritical support for the present regime may not be the best way to ensure that.

NO ARTS, NO LETTERS, NO SOCIETY

The Government has wasted no time in making public its list of allocations to the arts in the coming year, after the lurid warnings issued this week by the directors of the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert and the Tate. How far the latter influenced the former, and whether or not Mr. Christopher Price, MP, was being teasingly provocative in asking the directors what would be the effects of a three-year freeze in grant which was never on the cards, may be allowed to pass into obscurity in the general rejoicing and relief among those concerned with the arts.

In present circumstances, the allocation is a reasonable one, and it should cause none of the predicted devastation — not, at least, unless the rise in relevant public sector salaries runs beyond the percentage allowed for (a matter largely out of the control of the museums and galleries themselves). For the Arts Council, charged with distributing funds to the live and performing arts, the level of grant should avert the necessity for another culling of its own budget comparable to that of a year ago. In the summer the Council was reported to be preparing plans for a possible frozen grant this year, which would have caused violent disruption where a measure of stability in real terms from year to year is important. This year has been an

unhappy one for the Arts Council, with a succession of squabbles, some consequent on the great cut, some indicative of poor communications within the Council's own structure. It was not wrong last year to discard organisations that no longer deserved support, though particular decisions, and their suddenness were questionable. Some victims which seemed hard done by have gained alternative sponsorship, as the Council no doubt calculated. The Old Vic company did not, and the long closure of that theatre (in spite of some hopes of better news shortly) does not make the decision to abandon it look any wiser than it did at the time.

Taken all round, yesterday's announcement represents a cut in real spending of about two per cent. The arts cannot claim a complete exemption from the general need to economise. Different kinds of enterprise face different risks, but almost all are handicapped by being unavoidably costly, in manpower, economies are hard to come by in the arts. If times grow harder, it is possible to envisage museums having to close an additional day each week. Unwelcome as it would be to have their assets locked away when they should be on view, that would be preferable

either to entry charges or to partial closure, which is acutely frustrating to visitors who find the very rooms they want inaccessible.

In the theatre, there has been a healthy symbiosis apparent this year in London, with many successful productions — a dozen at a time sometimes — transferring from state companies to commercial houses, to the benefit of both. But the recent threat to replace the Fortune Theatre with an office block incorporating a theatre even more disastrous than the present one is a reminder of the special dangers theatres face, even thriving ones, whenever property values are high.

A high level of public subsidy in the arts remains necessary today, as it has been ever since the decline of the wealthy individual patron. It is right to pursue all possible alternative means of support, from industrial patronage and museum shops to a more benign tax regime for individual patrons, but these endeavours can at best only supplement public subsidy. There are few votes in public support for the arts, but Britain's high international standing in the field makes them a vital foreign exchange earner. Failing to give them the support they need would prove in the end a catastrophic false economy.

LET TAXPAYERS PUT ASUNDER

The Law Society has seldom been seen as the promulgator of radical solutions. Its urgent plea for immediate reform of the tax system is therefore the more remarkable. The burden of the Society's message is that the tax system as it affects families is grossly unfair and in urgent need of adjustment. If, as the Government has indicated, full-scale reform is not possible until the end of the decade, then the Law Society believes, interim measures must be taken to redress some of the worst inequities. Few would disagree.

The real inequities stem from the outdated notion that women once married do not exist as separate taxpaying members of society. Our property laws long ago recognized a married woman's right to own property, but the tax laws trail miserably behind, failing to take account of women's dramatically changed role in society.

In December 1980 the Government published a Green Paper on the Taxation of Husband and Wife putting forward for debate several possible solutions. Since then most organizations have made their representations to the

Inland Revenue. They have come down firmly in favour of mandatory separate taxation of husband and wife and the removal of the married man's allowance, with the surplus being used to increase child benefit. The sticking point is whether the tax allowance of the non-working spouse, usually the wife, should be transferable to the husband to be offset against his income.

Organizations which represent the older woman — often housewives without paid employment — feel that removal of the married man's allowance without making the wife's personal allowance transferable to the husband would put childless couples with non-working wives at a disadvantage.

With the proportion of working wives approaching 65 per cent amongst younger age groups it is probably true to say that childless couples with nonworking wives enjoy over generous tax treatment compared with families with children.

Much of this resentment could be removed if the Government were to take the first step to do away with the married man's allowance and

use the surplus to increase child benefit. Whether or not separate taxation should be mandatory (the source of the Government's reluctance to act since the Inland Revenue complains that mandatory separate taxation would overnight double the administrative burden) could be decided at a later date, as could the capital gains tax factors. As compensation for the couple with a nonworking wife, it should be possible to make concessions on the treatment of a wife's investment income to balance the loss of the married man's allowance. The Government has itself effectively abolished tax on investment income by its flooding of the market with tax-free National Savings securities; so the loss of revenue would probably be negligible.

What is unacceptable is the Government's argument that major changes on tax treatment of families should await computerisation of the system in the late eighties. It may be an excuse that the Inland Revenue staff finds acceptable. It is not an excuse for a government that came into power with the declared determination to give our tax system the radical overhaul that it needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restoring communion with Rome?

From The Right Reverend John R. H. Moorman and the Right Reverend Edward Knapp-Fisher
Sir, The Anglican Communion is faced by a great dilemma. It is caught between the one horn of the ancient Churches represented by Rome and Orthodoxy, and on the other by Protestantism in all its forms. The time has now come when it must make a decision between them.

The time is fast approaching when we shall be asked "To which Church do you belong?" but "Are you a Christian?" In an age marked by the revival of such religions as Islam and Hinduism, as well as by the growth of Marxism and indifferentism, Christians constitute but a small part of the world's population. In these circumstances it is essential that we should become, and be seen to be, one Church; and that Church must surely have Roman Catholicism as its basis. Our first priority should therefore be to enter into communion with Rome.

For four hundred years our relations with the Roman Catholic Church have been unhappy, and with some reason. In the past Rome has been both arrogant and offensive. As recently as 1928, in the encyclical *Mortalius Animus*, Pius XI made the monstrous declaration that "Whosoever is not united with the body (ie the Roman Catholic Church) is a member of it, neither is he in Communion with Christ's head".

Even John XXIII regarded Vatican II as an opportunity for that Church to put itself in order, to shed those outside could return into the fold of Peter. That has all changed; and Rome is now discussing questions of unity with Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and others with a view to establishing that

one great Church to which we all look.

In 1966 the then Archbishop of Canterbury and Paul VI agreed that examination of the theological questions which separated Canterbury from Rome should be inaugurated without delay. The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission appointed for this purpose has now completed its work.

The Agreed Statements already published on Eucharist, Ministry and Authority indicate that on doctrinal matters — our two churches are much closer than seemed possible. These three Statements, together with a fourth and other important material, will be included in the commission's Final Report which it is hoped will be published in January, 1982. This should be compulsory reading for all those concerned with ecumenism if we are to avoid the irrelevant and uninformative prejudices that are so common.

Whether or not the Agreed Statements will be acceptable to our two churches and lead to unity between us is open to question. They clearly demonstrate, however, that on important matters upon which we have disagreed there is a considerable degree of genuine agreement between us.

What then should the Anglican Communion do? If, as surely we should, we take the long view, we should grasp the opportunity now before us and at least postpone entering into agreements with other churches which would inevitably draw us away from what is bound to be the coming great Church.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. H. MOORMAN,
EDWARD KNAPP-FISHER,
22 Springfield Road,
Durham.

Romney Marsh

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and others
Sir, We write in support of the appeal which Mr Michael Nightingale has made (November 28) on behalf of the Romney Marsh churches.

Few parts of Southern England retain such peculiarly local character as the bleak countryside of Romney Marsh and the churches scattered over its flat fields of sheep, corn and potatoes are a group of quite exceptional medieval buildings.

Despite some generous assistance in the past, several of these churches now urgently need major repairs, which their small congregations cannot afford. As a result we ask all those with an interest in the maintenance of historic buildings to help make them structurally sound, so that they can still be places of worship — and magnificent monuments to the faith of those who built them.

Mr Nightingale has drawn attention to the open meeting at St George's Church (itself a fine thirteenth-century building) in the heart of the Marsh) on Saturday, December 5 at 2.30 pm. For those who would like to help maintain these marvellous churches, but cannot attend, donations can be sent to: Romney Marsh Rural Churches, Barclays Bank, Cranbrook, Kent. Yours faithfully,

PROBERT CANTUAR,
RICHARD INGRAMS,
JOHN PIPER
Lambeth Palace, SE1,
November 30.

From Mr Christopher Gilson

Sir, The appalling revelation (November 28) that nine churches on Romney Marsh could only offer one service between them on a Friday is a serious condemnation of current Anglican attitudes to worship. At almost every Anglican meeting nowadays one hears bishops and clergy speaking of the priesthood of the laity and their desire to involve the laity more in the running of the Church. As soon as any real opportunity for showing the reality of these views occurs, the story changes.

On Romney Marsh all of these churches have a history of devotion and devotion said or sung every Sunday, if the local laity were really involved. Churchwardens may take the services if no one else is available, but surely the local area must contain residents willing to travel out into the Marsh to ensure that the worship of God is maintained in these holy buildings?

To pass a church which does not even weekly for the worship of God is to proclaim a Church in retreat. If the diocese involved is unwilling to serve God on the Marsh, or anywhere else, is there not an Anglican layman who can create a national army of church

people who promise to maintain the worship once entrusted to the clergy, who now retreat and close what they will not maintain and share?

The obsession of the Church with the Communion Service, and the inflation which is cutting the number of clergy, will soon close many more churches. Unless readers and other laity are mobilized to maintain the life of prayer and praise, the present state of non-worship on Romney Marsh will soon become normal in wide tracts of rural England and, one suspects, in industrial England too.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILSON
28 Cell Farm Avenue,
Old Windsor,
Berkshire
November 29

From the President of Kent County Cricket Club

Sir, Mr D. H. L. Hopkinson (December 2), making the point that certain churches on Romney Marsh in the diocese of Canterbury have been closed whereas others which are in the Chichester diocese remain open, remarks strangely that "All Sussex men have known for centuries that we conduct our affairs and cricket better than Kent".

And cricket? I imagine that supporters of Sussex Cricket may have been somewhat mystified by this peculiar claim. If results are fair evidence they will know that over the 1970s their men won one title against the 10 of Kent, plus another shared.

However, the strong challenge for the County Championship made last summer by John Barclay's Sussex team was greatly admired on this side of the border, and if our ancient opponents were to win their first-ever championship Kent would be among the first to applaud. Yours faithfully,
D. H. SWANTON,
Delf House,
Sandwich,
Kent,
December 3.

From the Clerk of Romney Marsh

Sir, May I correct Messrs. Nightingale (November 28) and Hopkinson (December 2)? The parishes of Midley, Brookland and Fairfield mentioned by Mr Nightingale, and those of Camber and East Guldeford quoted by Mr Hopkinson are not in Romney Marsh. They are in Walsand Marsh.

The parish of Dymchurch is within Romney Marsh and at least two services are held in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul each Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. LACKNER,
Clerk of the Office,
New Hall,
Dymchurch,
Romney Marsh,
Kent,
December 2.

Wheelchairs at cinemas

From Mr E. G. Herzog
Sir, The point raised by the Reverend Derek Hayward (November 28) is a difficult one. Having been the editor of the *Sheffield Guide for the Disabled* for 10 years, I have had many conversations with cinema managers. They are rightly afraid of the responsibilities involved. The "access" sign says simply "Yes". One cannot modify it by such sentences as "Yes if legs only affected but arms strong". "No unless accompanied by a resourceful adult". A single step, a heavy door open towards you and you can easily be defeated, especially if the lights have failed and there is a panic.

Helpful managers of cinemas, night clubs or bingo halls sometimes allow a disabled person into their premises and then insist that the wheelchair be taken outside. This seems to me the worst possible solution. Can one imagine someone trying to bring a wheelchair into a hall

against a stream of people trying to get out? It is an outbreak of fire which, after all, we are talking about!

A wheelchair is an eminently mobile thing and not to be compared to a crate of bottles or a bucket and broom which fall under the heading "the gangways must at all times be kept free from obstruction". A booklet describing access to places of entertainment and covering the whole country exists but, although it has a foreword by the then Minister for the Disabled, it completely ignores this point; nor does it mention the great danger the immobile handicapped person could be to others when made to sit at the end of a row of seats.

A preliminary inspection and a talk with the staff seems the only solution. As one further point: unless the cinemas are almost invariably hopeless.

Yours truly,
E. G. HERZOG,
81 Marsh House Road,
Sheffield,
November 29.

What Social Democrats stand for

From the Reverend P. Rountree Clifford

Sir, Politicians frequently misrepresent the views of their opponents in the mistaken belief that this strengthens their own case. As a result they undermine their credibility. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the repeated charge that the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance is lacking in policies.

The crucial difference from both the Conservative and the Labour parties is the commitment of the Alliance to constitutional reform which, David Steel has consistently argued, is the sine qua non of economic recovery. Confidence in our democratic institutions will not be restored without it, nor will a period of stability be secured in which industrialists can plan for the future without the fear of drastic swings of the pendulum.

Furthermore, it is maintained, that could underpin the beginning of a new climate of co-operation with co-partnership and profit-sharing in industry, making unacceptable the dogmatic which has bedevilled the British economy for so many years.

There is also, of course, the wholehearted commitment to Europe and to partnership with the countries of the Third World, disastrously relegated on the agenda of both Conservative and Labour parties.

More detailed policies on a range of other subjects have long been adopted by the Liberal Party and it seems that the Social Democrats are likely to be in broad agreement with these when the joint working groups have completed their discussions.

A radically fresh approach to politics and the economy is now being offered, to the British people. The other two parties are entitled to disagree with what is being proposed. They should stop the nonsense of pretending that they do not know what the policies are.

Yours faithfully,
P. ROUNTREE CLIFFORD,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
December 2.

From Mr Kevin O'Sullivan

Sir, Ian Bradley's profile of the SDP ("Socially Distinguished People", November 30) was

Prison sentences

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC
Sir, Lord Justice Lawton (November, 27) states that his experience in the criminal courts stretching over 46 years leads him to think that recidivist offenders would be likely to start re-offending within days or weeks of their being released. Hence the Lord Chief Justice and those Lords Justices who preside in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) did not favour the automatic release on licence after one-third of any sentence of three years or more, which the Home Secretary was proposing to introduce in the Criminal Justice Bill.

They concluded from their experience that while persistent offenders are in prison they are not trying on the public on commencing legislation allowing for their earlier release would simply invite the judges to compensate by lengthening their sentences.

Given that imprisonment for potential recidivists merely postpones the furthering of their criminal careers, the crucial question is: will postponement of re-offending be materially curtailed by an earlier release? The periodicity of re-offending is not readily calculable; it certainly has not been established in fact what Lord Justice Lawton and his judicial colleagues would have to believe. I would merely quote paragraph 193 of the report in 1978 on Sentences of Imprisonment by the Advisory Council on the Penal System, a report that has been sadly neglected:

"We draw some comfort from the conclusion of the parole study (Parole Research Study No. 38, 1976) which stated that the policy adopted on the part of the Parole Board in recent years, compared with the policy adopted when parole was first introduced, had not worsened the failure rate of parolees during the period of the licence. As we record in Chapter 2, a policy of releasing sentences has been effective in the past, admittedly in different circumstances from today, without apparently increasing the crime rate. Although the reconviction figures we studied do not give cause for optimism, it is after all, easy to exaggerate the effect that shorter sentences might have on the quality of offending. We acknowledge that there is likely to be some increase in the commission of offences, but we believe that this is a risk we must all be prepared to take."

More recent research undertaken for the Home Office Research Unit by Messrs Brodie and Turling has affirmed that the incapacitation of offenders does not materially affect the overall crime rate.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
Goldsmith Building, ECA.

Wage-inflation tax

From Mr J. Leonard Nicholson

Sir, The trouble, I suggest, with the wage-inflation tax is that, while the additional incentive which it gives employers to resist wage claims would harden their attitude, that would only harden the attitude of workers who are given no incentive to moderate their claims. Indeed, the lefties in the trade unions who like to believe that, each time they win a wage award, they are punishing the class enemy would raise their demands in the hope of scoring a double blow since, on top of the higher wages, their employers would have to pay the tax. The trouble is among them would enjoy a field day.

Yours faithfully,
J. LEONARD NICHOLSON,
Policy Studies Institute,
1-2 Castle Lane, SW1,
November 30.

surely unfair in describing the membership as middle-class people with conservative views.

The poll he quotes showed overwhelming support (ie more than 70 per cent) for staying in the Common Market; an incomes policy; government aid to industry; multilateral disarmament; worker-directors in companies; curtailment of trade union legal immunities; the mixed economy. It also showed an overwhelming antipathy (72 per cent) to leaving private schools as they are, and was in favour of the introduction of a wealth tax. Far from being conservative this programme seems reformist in the Callaghan-Flealey tradition with a touch of Mitterrand thrown in.

The SDP may be middle class (80 per cent of the British people consider that they are middle class) but on the evidence they're not conservative.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN O'SULLIVAN,
47 Draycott Place, SW3,
December 1.

From Mr David J. Willis
Sir, *Weekend World's* comprehensive survey of the SDP showed what was already clear, that they are a predominantly middle-class self-centred "moderate" party who are in favour of reform as long as it doesn't affect them.

Their anti-trade union posture is in fact more extreme than the Government's present proposals and on most other issues is closer to the Tory "wets" than to even the Liberals. Shirley Williams and David Owen's hopes for a radical party are certain to be dashed.

If, as seems certain, Roy Jenkins is confirmed as leader, the electorate will be faced with a choice of either Tory or pseudo-Tory with the Liberals swallowed up and absorbed.

The only real alternative will always be the Labour Party, and unless they can renounce themselves and present a credible and unified stance to the voters the prospects will be bleak indeed. Yours sincerely,
DAVID J. WILLIS,
Isfrin, 23 Cargwyn,
Penwithick,
St Austell, Cornwall.
November 29.

Question of credit

From Mr Mahyun A. Benjamin
Sir, Last Monday the *Panorama* programme on BBC1 gave a very penetrating analysis of the way in which Colonel Gaddafi and the Libyan Government have become the promoter and paymaster of international terrorism.

It was therefore with astonishment that my attention was drawn to the Eurocredit arranged for Libya. This credit was established mainly by Arab or Arab-related institutions, but a British bank, the Midland, is also participating.

I believe that the bank owes its shareholders and customers an explanation, because one's concern is not merely over political differences. Libya has become a pariah in the international community, sending picked teams throughout the world to assassinate exiled opponents of its Government, and having regard to the numerous men, women and children killed or maimed at the hands of international terrorist organisations financed by Libya the bank obviously has many questions to answer.

I am therefore requesting that the "listening bank" listens to its customers and perhaps even to its conscience. Yours sincerely,
MALVYN BENJAMIN, Joint Chairman,
Herut Movement of Great Britain,
71 Coudray Gardens, NW6,
November 25.

The burden of lorries

From Mr A. C. McKinnon
Sir, The recent Transport White Paper claims that, if lorry weights are increased by the proposed amounts, industry's freight transport bill can be reduced by around £150 million. May I suggest an alternative way of achieving a comparable level of saving which, and the lorry weight proposal, would carry unquestionable environmental benefit?

It was estimated in 1978 that, at any given time, a third of the lorries on the roads are travelling empty, at a total cost to the nation of £400 million per annum. If, by a rationalization of freight distribution, the Government could reduce the amount of empty running by only 10 per cent, this would achieve a similar order of saving, while reducing the total volume of lorry traffic. Yours sincerely,
ALAN C. MCKINNON,
Department of Geography,
The University, Leicester,
December 2.

Cuckoo revisited

From Mr H. D. A. Butcher

Sir, The letter in *The Times* last Saturday from the member of Parliament for Staffordshire South West and others, about Hampstead Heath in general, and Wintahurst in particular, rang a bell in my head. Had I read it all before?

By a strange coincidence I then picked up the second edition of *The First Cuckoo* (Being letters to *The Times*) and, opening it fortuitously at page 282, read a letter of February 17, 1971, from Yehudi Menuhin on the same subject.

I hope, *deo volente*, and expect to read another such letter in Yours truly,
H. D. A. BUTCHER,
26 Talbot Road,
Lyne Regis,
Dorset.

Saturday Review

From formerly secret documents in War Cabinet and Admiralty records the historian Martin Gilbert, biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, reconstructs the plotting and chance that in a few days of December 1941 visited disaster on Britain and America, and yet assured their ultimate victory

For the President of the United States the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was "a day that will live in infamy." For the British Prime Minister that same attack was "the greatest joy." After more than two years of American neutrality Britain at last had America as an ally. "We had won the war," Churchill later reflected. "We should not be wiped out. Our history would not come to an end."

Yet for the two previous years Britain had been alone and vulnerable. The Germans, aware of Britain's weakness in the Far East, had pressed the Japanese, since the beginning of 1941, to attack Singapore, and to drive the British from Malaya. To counter any such threat would involve sending a strong naval force to the eastern oceans. But to do this, Winston Churchill told Franklin Roosevelt, would weaken Britain's naval strength nearer home, "courting disaster" in the Mediterranean and Atlantic.

On June 22, 1941 Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, and a month later the United States imposed economic sanctions on Japan, as a protest against the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China. In August the Japanese proposed a general settlement between themselves and the United States. There would be no further Japanese advance into South-East Asia, and French Indo-China would be evacuated; in return America would recognize Japanese predominance in China.

Although these terms were unacceptable, they did give America time, as Churchill explained to Anthony Eden, to "procure a moratorium of, say, thirty days" in which Britain could "improve" her position in the Singapore area, while the Japanese will have to stand still. At the same time a stern message to Japan, drafted by Churchill himself, was sent by Roosevelt to the Japanese Ambassador in Washington.

This message constituted an important secret step on the way to an American commitment. "Any further encroachment by Japan in the South-West Pacific," the message warned, "would produce a situation in which the United States Government would be compelled to take counter measures, even though these might lead to war between the United States and Japan."

America's warning to Japan was, Churchill told Eden, "a very great advance towards the gripping of Japanese aggression by the united forces." But in the view of the Dominion Prime Ministers, some British naval activity was also needed, if Japan were to be deterred from attacking Singapore and Malaya. In August the Churchill Prime Minister issued an appeal from Australia for the early despatch of five capital ships, to be sent East of Suez, and to act as "the most powerful deterrent" as well as the "first step" in the building up of naval reinforcements in the event of war.

The Australian premier also wanted Britain to declare war on Japan should Japanese forces attack the independent state of Siam. But everything that Churchill met to discuss the Atlantic Charter confirmed that American neutrality was still the policy for the foreseeable future.

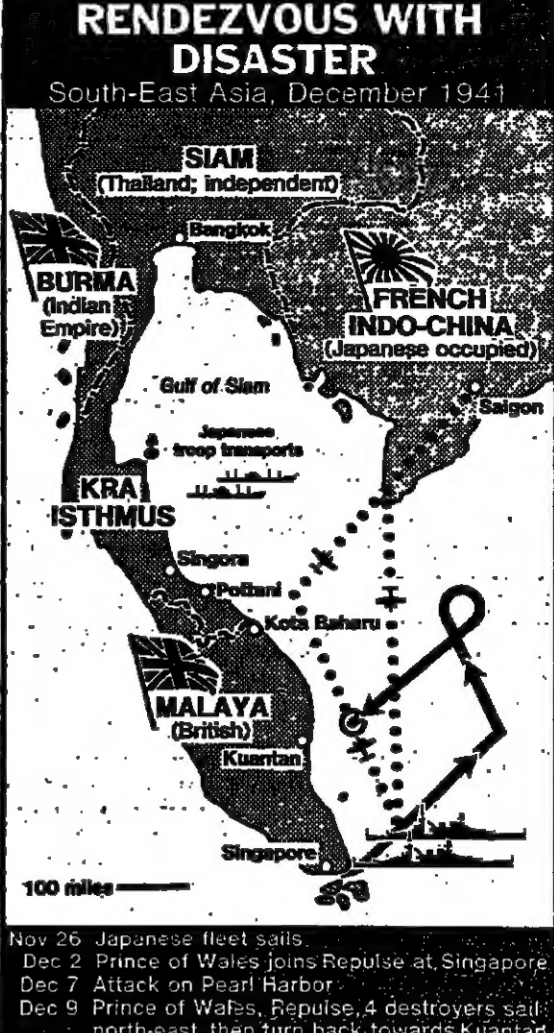
The conclusion which Churchill drew was a sombre one. "He sometimes wondered," the War Cabinet minutes recorded, "whether the President realized the risk which the United States were running by keeping out of the war. If Germany beat Russia to a standstill, the United States made no further advance towards entry into the war, there was a great danger that the war might take a turn against us." It seemed to Churchill that one way to encourage greater American involvement in the Far East was to put into operation the naval deterrent plan which the Australian Prime Minister had proposed, hoping that, with Roosevelt's warning, this would prevent any Japanese aggression for at least three months; then, in the event of war, there would be the nucleus of a naval war force. In the Admiralty's view, how-



COPI. MESSAGE. 0615Z/10th Dec.
Addressed ADMIRALTY. From CHIEF OF STAFF, EASTERN FLEET.
MOST IMMEDIATE.
H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES and H.M.S. REPULSE
sunk by torpedoes at about 1317
G 11/10
In position 00° 30' North
140° 30' East.



Far left: Churchill waves farewell in August 1941 to the men of the Prince of Wales (35,000 tons) completed only at the end of March. He had been on board for talks with Roosevelt. Left below: the same men scramble over the battleship's side as she sinks off Malaya in December. Of 1,612 as many as 1,285 were saved. Left above: Captain Tennant and Canon Bezzant, chaplain, rescued from the Repulse (33,250 tons, launched 1916). Of 1,309 on board, 796 were saved. In the cable (centre) informing the Admiralty of the loss, the degrees of longitude should be 104. (Reproduced by permission of Controller H.M. Stationery Office).



American fleet". No decision reached, except to "reconsider the problem in the morning light." By morning light it was too late. At Singapore, Phillips had already decided on action, and set off northwards.

As his two battleships, together with their four destroyers, steamed northwards towards the Siamese ports the weather cleared. At that moment a Japanese spotter aircraft located them. Phillips at once decided that the risk was unacceptable, and abandoned the operation, setting course at high speed southwards for Singapore.

But that midnight, as the Prince of Wales steamed south, Phillips received a signal from Singapore that Japanese forces had landed half-way down the Malayan coast, at Kuantan. He at once decided to attack them.

His reasoning was recalled six weeks later by his senior surviving staff officer. First, Kuantan lay four hundred miles from the Japanese airfields in Indo-China. Second, Kuantan was "a key military position which every effort must be made to defend". Third, the Japanese spotter aircraft had last located his ship in the latitude of Singapore, steaming northwards. The Japanese would not therefore expect his force to be so far south. Surprise at Kuantan was thus probable, and the risk, in his view, justified.

By one in the morning of December 10 Phillips had turned his ships towards Kuantan. Soon after daylight, however, one of his force's destroyers, the Express, which had gone ahead, reached the harbour, found no sign of the Japanese, and rejoined the admiral. Kuantan being still in British hands, Phillips prepared to continue his southward course to Singapore.

But before he did so, at seven o'clock that morning, time was spent searching for some barge and junk in the vicinity which had been sighted earlier. Thinking that these might be motor landing-craft intended for a landing at Kuantan, Captain Tennant of the Repulse decided to examine them. Phillips agreed.

Simultaneously, an aircraft was sighted, but it was not identified as either enemy or friendly. Four hours later, at ten to eleven, the Repulse radar picked up aircraft on its screen, and ten minutes later these same aircraft came into sight: eighty-four Japanese bombers in two waves.

This large air fleet had already flown as far south as Singapore in search of the two British battleships. Having sighted nothing, it was returning to its base in Indo-China on a northerly course. Entirely by chance, its pre-arranged flight path led the force straight over its quarry.

The first bombs fell shortly after eleven in the morning, when the Repulse broke radio silence to inform Singapore of the attack.

The Japanese bombers attacked in waves after wave for an hour and a half. At 12.35 pm the Repulse turned over and sank. The Prince of Wales capsized and sank at 1.20 pm. Six hundred officers and men were drowned, including Phillips and Leach. More than two thousand sailors were rescued by the four destroyers.

Fighter aircraft, sent from Singapore as a result of the message from the Repulse, reached the scene only in time to witness the Prince of Wales go under.

When the news of the sinking of the two battleships reached London, Churchill was in bed working on official papers. He was told the news over the telephone. "I was shocked to be alone," he later recalled. "In all the war I never received a more direct shock."

And yet, with the United States at last in the war, and with both Germany and Italy having declared war on her, even disaster seemed quickly to fall into a less tragic perspective, and on December 12 Churchill telegraphed to Roosevelt: "I am enormously relieved at the turn world events have taken." Not only relief, but hope; for, as Churchill told Eden, America's entry into the war "makes amends for all, and with time and patience will give certain victory."

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Martin Gilbert is at present writing the Second World War volume of the Churchill biography, and would welcome any personal recollections of Churchill during the war years, which should be sent to him at Marton College, Oxford.

The day they sank the deterrent

by Martin Gilbert

ever, the proposed naval force would be too great a hostage to fortune, and after considering the proposal "most carefully," the First Sea Lord, "I cannot recommend it". Churchill deferred to the Admiralty's judgment.

In mid-September a Joint Intelligence Committee assessment of the situation in the Far East concluded that Japan was apparently making offensive preparations against Russia. The Committee felt that Japan would not risk war against the United States and Great Britain by attacking Malaya, at least until Russia had been so weakened by Germany as to be compelled to reduce her Far East forces below their existing level. Which way would Japan turn, and when? "This Japanese situation is definitely worse," Roosevelt warned Churchill on October 15. "I think they are headed North."

Further news on the following day seemed to bring some Japanese action suddenly much nearer, for it was learned that same evening that in Tokyo the moderate Komei Cabinet had resigned. This news, Eden's private secretary, Oliver Harvey, noted in his diary, "seems to portend a forward movement by Japanese extremists". Where, he asked would they strike, "North against Vladivostok or South against Siam"? Neither British nor American territory seemed as yet directly threatened. But Britain, Harvey noted, was considering "despatch of a capital ship" to the Far East. "That would make a difference."

Anthony Eden had indeed revived Churchill's earlier idea of sending two British battleships to the Far East as an immediate deterrent force. At the same time, the Australian Government now asked for an assurance that this force included "modern units". At the Defence Committee meeting on October 17, where Eden's proposal was discussed, it was Churchill who raised the question of sending the battleship Prince of Wales to the Far East, to join the Repulse, which was already in Singapore.

Three days later, at a further meeting of the Defence Committee, despite Dudley Pound's continuing hesitation, the Committee decided "that the importance of the early arrival of one of our latest battleships in Far Eastern waters outweighed the reasons put forward by the First Sea Lord for retaining all these King George V Class in Atlantic waters".

According to the Defence Committee, Pound's reasons had been outweighed because it was hoped that the presence of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse at Singapore "would act as a deterrent to Japan and avert war". If however the Japanese were in fact "on the point of taking the plunge", it was hoped

by the Defence Committee that the battleships' presence would prevent them "from sending their expeditionary force to the southward" against Malaya. Although the Japanese would be able to bring down "a superior force", it was also felt "that the containing power of the strong American fleet at Hawaii would restrain them from any major venture into the Gulf of Siam".

The die was cast, and the Prince of Wales, prepared to steam eastward. Even as she crossed the Indian Ocean, on November 26 a Japanese naval force set off through fogs and gales, from the Kurile Islands, north of Japan, its target the Pearl Harbor naval base at Hawaii.

Three days later the Chiefs of Staff Committee met in London. Intelligence reports confirmed a high state of Japanese military, naval and air alert, but gave no indication of where any attack might come. Indeed, it was still thought by those who studied these reports that Russia would be the principal, and perhaps the sole object of Japan's attack.

Hitler's forces were now within striking distance of Russia's main oil fields. Russia was thus a tempting target for Japan. But the intelligence observers also saw, to the south, a second possible target, the independent state of Siam, which, if conquered, would then pose a direct threat to the British in Malaya and Singapore.

Even as Admiral Tom Phillips, Commander-in-Chief of the new Far Eastern force, approached Singapore in the Prince of Wales,

the danger signals intensified. On December 1 the Admiralty signalled Phillips that on his arrival he might send either the Prince of Wales or the Repulse "away from Singapore to disconcert the Japanese". The deterrent aspect was thus still the dominant factor.

Two days later, however, when the presence of Japanese submarines was reported in the area, the Admiralty signalled Phillips that he should request U.S. destroyers in the region to be sent to Singapore, and that he himself should get both the Prince of Wales and the Repulse "away from Singapore to the eastward".

Unfortunately, Phillips was unable to carry out this immediate dash for safety, as the Prince of Wales had been taken in hand for essential repairs for seven days, and needed three full days' notice before being ready to sail.

On December 6, as the Prince of Wales prepared finally to sail, Japanese naval troop movements were reported that indicated a possible Japanese expedition southwards towards the Kra Peninsula of Siam, on the northern border of Malaya. From the position of the transports, however, it was not possible, General Alan Brooke noted in his diary, "to tell whether they were going to Bangkok, to the Kra Peninsula, or whether they were just cruising round as a bluff".

On December 7 the three Chiefs of Staff (Pound, Portal and Alan Brooke), meeting in London, informed Churchill at Chequers that Britain was prepared to "fire the first shot" on

any such Japanese expedition against Siam, "before it reached its objectives." She would only do so, however, provided Britain could be assured of American armed support, and also if British attack would not be represented by isolationists in the United States as a deliberate attempt "to drag them into a British war".

That morning (British time) it was learned in London that Roosevelt would definitely regard it as a hostile act to the United States if Japan were to invade Malaya, Burma, the Dutch East Indies, or even Siam. This new American commitment was to be announced publicly by Roosevelt on Wednesday, December 10.

"This is an immense relief," Churchill telegraphed to General Auchinleck on December 7, "as I had long dreaded being at war with Japan without or before the United States."

Even while this telegram was being sent, Japanese ships and aircraft were continuing their crossing of the Pacific on the final leg of their attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor: that same "strong American fleet at Hawaii" which the British War Cabinet had so recently believed would deter the Japanese from any attack on British or Dutch possessions, or on Siam.

Early on the morning of December 7, Pacific time (early evening that day in Britain), 360 Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, leaving in their wake more than two thousand American dead.

At nine o'clock that evening, Churchill was still at Chequers.



The attack on Pearl Harbor; and Churchill and Roosevelt on board the Prince of Wales.

Television/Elkan Allan

They kid you not

Should you wish to embarrass a senior member of an ITV programme contractor or the IBA itself, bring up the question of children's programmes. They know that their record has been lamentable; that the programmes they are still offering are rotten; that they have short-changed the children of Britain over the years, particularly in programme timing; and all they can splutter by way of defence is that they are conscious of their defects and are looking actively into the matter.

They all devoutly wish the subject could go away for a year or two until their recently formed children's sub-committee could come up with proposals that might be translated into action, but it has recently been pushed to the centre of attention by a unilateral statement by TVS.

Television South, to give the new contractors for the extended Southern region their full name, announced that, as soon as they take over on January 1, they will extend children's time in their region by 15 minutes. Their first attempt to cater for a young audience is to be a Monday-to-Thursday slot for older children about a local radio station, to be called Radio 5.

"Although we are newcomers to ITV - indeed, perhaps because we are new - we feel very strongly that it's time ITV children's programmes took on a new look," says the station's Head of Children's Programmes, Anna Home, a recruit from the BBC, where she produced *Grange Hill* and all junior drama.

"While the BBC has expanded its range over the years, ITV has shrunk. There is no overall pattern, no philosophy. So we have taken the bit between our teeth."

Anna Home has a powerful ally in Colin Shaw, the IBA's Director of Television and some say, favorite soon to succeed Sir Brian Young as Director-General. He told me: "I find myself saddened that I haven't been able to match BBC children's programmes, which are one of the glories of British television."

"The companies have not paid the kind of attention to this area of programming that they have to others. They have allowed the initiative to pass to the BBC to an unacceptable extent. This is clearly seen in the ratings, which on some evenings are 80-20 in the BBC's favour. This is hardly surprising when Thames persists with *The Sooty Show*, after all these years; Westward is allowed to network an undistinguished nature series; *Country Camera*; ATV can trot out unpleasant failure *The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist* for a repeat showing; and Granada can get away with endless undistinguished pop shows, currently *Get It Together*. These were the main children's fare on recent evenings."

In an effort to stem the tide of rubbish, the IBA recently held a breast-beating weekend at Cambridge. "There was a general recognition of just how abysmally they had been performing," according to Colin Shaw. He sees some imminent improvement but no real revolution before 1983.

In my view, we can expect

Radio/David Wade

Going down a bomb

As a radio dramatist (he is also and for his livelihood a producer), I am personally observant of developments in the (monetary) Don Haworth has given his listeners a lot of pleasure and some pain. Plays like *We All Come to It in the End* or *There's No Point in Arguing* in the *Today* celebrated in a tone of high Northern colloquial articulation - working as a Santa Claus in a department store, trying to get Dad's car for his day home by public transport; or in a different vein there was the brilliant little allegory of *On a Day in Summer* in a *Golden Hour*.

These and others, on the face of it as unlikely to take off and stay airborne as any space probe, in fact went effortlessly into orbit. But there have been a number of occasions when the miracle signally failed to occur. We would then witness the author as it were rushing towards the cliff edge with wings flapping energetically, only to plummet into the sea below. When this has happened it has often seemed to be because he was trying to force a repeat of what succeeded in the past. But commonly when he has tried some quite new approach, then we have seen him take off once more.

Certainly this is what he did with *Talk of Love and War* (Radio 3, November 29) where, turning his back on the bizarre and the allegorical, he gave us an extended conversation between Tom and James, two young bomb pilots of the Second World War which was authentic not only - and as far as I am able to judge - in its recreation of time and place, but without question as a statement of human experience.

Briefly, the talk charted James's love affair with Gwyneth and its painful collapse, the girl still bound by a sense of obligation to her first husband, himself a pilot lost over the North Atlantic. Thus death tri-



Anna Home: time for a new deal for kids

nothing more than cosmetic touches until the companies abandon their outrageously greedy annexation of the 5.15-5.45 pm slot for what are euphemistically called "family" programmes.

While the BBC offers informative, as well as entertaining programmes for youngsters starting from 3.55 with the repeat of *Play School*, until the News at 5.40, ITV now squashes what it does provide for children into an advertisement-interrupted hour between 4.15 and 5.15.

At 5.15, when schoolchildren with longer journeys are only just settling down to their tea, my local station, Anglia, is now screening three repeats of situation comedies and two tepid "family" game-shows. Nothing stimulating and nothing specifically for youngsters, unlike the rival BBC1.

The reason for this flight from ITV's responsibility is, simply, economic. Children are a poor market for advertisers, but if you screen soap operas for their mothers, you can attract Das and Nimble and the rest of the housewife-orientated advertisers. In America, there is virtually no "kidvid" any more; it's all "kidult" now - which means cartoons and moronic sitcoms.

John Hambley, until recently Head of Children's Programmes at Thames and still chairman of the Network Children's Committee, led the attack on his employers at the 1980 Edinburgh Television Festival.

"Eight per cent of children's programmes are entertainment, much of it designed to attract adults while being merely 'suitable' for children. Children are the most neglected and worst abused 'minority' (actually they comprise a quarter of the total audience). We must make fewer programmes which blindly and cheaply regurgitate the tastes for banal imports and second-rate pop shows that we have helped to foster."

Since then, he thinks, he may have helped to halt the decline, if not actually improve matters. He sees his recent introduction of such short, imaginative series as *Sig of the Dump* as a step forward.

But there is a long way to go. If the present franchise-holders wish to justify their lucrative licences, they have to stop selling Britain's youth short. One reason TVS won last year was because it promised to devote more time and money to children's programmes. Those who did not lose their licences last time round should take note.

People are always "finding" things in the attic, but Karen Addenbrooke must hold the record for quantity at least. She found more than 300 paintings by an eighteenth-century ancestor. His name is William George Jennings (1763-1854) and 200 of the paintings are being exhibited by the Krios Gallery, 305 Brompton Road, until December 12. They are mostly gouaches, though there is the occasional water-colour and oil on paper, and the prices range from £30 to £100.

Little appears to be known of Jennings except that he was a gentleman of means, visiting the Continent on the Grand Tour, staying at some of the leading families of the day and keeping in touch with the culture of the metropolis. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in eight of the years between 1797 and 1806 but appears to have had no need to sell his paintings.

His passion was for landscape and sketching, and he clearly worked busily, mainly in the country round London, though with occasional expeditions further afield. It is the topographical element that makes his sketches particularly fascinating. Hampstead and Highgate - still charming rural villages - are constant subjects. There is a distant view of Kibara with a driver and

castle in the foreground, Blackheath, Gravesend.

The works are of good amateur or minor professional standard, of considerable charm and extremely cheap at an average of £50 apiece.

How about teapots for Christmas? Dan Klein of the Halkin Arcade, London, SW1, opens an exhibition titled "Teapots Past and Present" on December 8, priced from £10 to £500.

Klein has "commissioned" teapots from some of the leading contemporary potters. Nick Homoky has come up with bizarre faience sculptures of teapot outlines (£150-£200). Richard Sze and his wife, Diana Gill, have gone for size, producing respectively a fruit still life with baskets of apples and abstract cabbage (around £100 each).

Dame Edna Everage has found a "clever little Australian" Suzanne Forsyth Hatch to do her a portrait of arresting ugliness.

There are "amalgams" such as Art Deco racing car and aeroplane teapots (£50-£80) and the Foley Art Pottery "Lord Salisbury" (£200). And there are "fantasy potters" in the current: Margaret Thatcher and the "Corgi and Bees".

At the London book dealer, has received an

unprecedented accolade for his seventieth birthday. His clients, librarians, bibliographers and private collectors, have combined to write a book about him, his triumphs "finds" and their triumphant purchases.

Entitled *Fine Books and Book Collecting*, it has a foreword by Lawrence Durrell - Alan Thomas has been his friend and bibliographer for 50 years. There follow contributions from 33 happy clients, writing about the major or minor treasures Thomas found for them.

Among the library contributors are the Bibliothèque Royale in Brussels and the Humanities Research Centre at the University of Texas. The private collectors include Sir Karl Popper, the philosopher, Sir Robert Birley, the former headmaster of Eton, and others from as far afield as Toshiyuki Takumura of Japan.

Janet Rackhouse of the British Library writes on the book. Thomas himself considers the greatest he has handled. It is a copy of the first edition of the *Book of St Albans* marked up with editorial changes as printer's copy for Wynkyn de Worde's edition of 1495; archaic or provincial language has been polished by the editor into modern metropolitan usage. It is the first, and so far only, known copy of a printed book used as printer's copy in the fifteenth century.

At the computer is forcing its way into the old-world collecting scene. Instead of setting off on a Saturday afternoon on an amble round the antique shops, collectors are now being urged to telephone Compute-Antique and find their treasures without stepping out of the house.

It is not quite as easy as that, of course. The computer contains a systematic listing of antique available for sale in antique shops in London and around Great Britain. The dealers pay £5 an item for a description to be stored in the computer; members of the general public ring Compute-Antique and state what type of object they are looking for. They are told (without fee) the names and addresses of up to four antique shops which are offering items close to their description.

The system was launched earlier this autumn and 200 dealers have already fed 2,500 descriptions of exciting objects into the system. So far the system, interior decoration (such as old fireplaces, mantelpieces), works of art, paintings and sculpture are listed; there are plans in hand to extend the system to cover silver, ceramics and other fields.

The number is 01-290 0033.



One of the paintings of livestock being sold by Bonham's to attract farmers in town to see the real thing

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Going on the transfer list

Every year, to the horror of the purists, the dictionaries recognize the existence of some new words, and it is only a matter of time before they are adopted into the language. Even Fowler's most ardent disciple would probably concede that no single word could evoke the instant horror of "Mick-krieg," and only those who detect all galleys would pretend that fashionable or smart captures the full sense of "chic."

Bidding is no dead language, either. The rules and ethics committee of the English Bridge Union spends untold hours limiting the endless proliferation of new systems and conventions. Many years ago, S. J. Simon suggested the proper test to judge a new convention: does it deprive you of a useful natural bid, and does it work?

Undeniably transfer bids fulfil both these qualifications. The whole range of responses to INT is considerably enriched at the negligible cost of dispensing with 20 as a weak take-out.

Let us start with an example which demonstrates how transfer bids can solve an everyday problem. East-West are using a weak no trump. West opens INT and this is East's hand:

♠ A Q J 7 6 4
♥ K Q 9
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 5

Whether this hand will produce a game opposite a weak no trump must obviously depend on how well the hands fit. Many players would respond 3♥ hoping for the best. Here are three

hands which West could hold to justify his opening bid of one no trump:

A ♠ 10 8 3
♥ K Q 2
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

B ♠ 10 8 3
♥ A K Q
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

C ♠ 10 8 3
♥ A K Q
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

On A, using standard methods, the bidding would be brief but ineffective.

Unless the opponents were kind enough to lead a red suit, INT would fail by anything from one to five tricks. This would be the sequence using transfer bids.

West East
INT 2♥
2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

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2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

This would be the transfer sequence:

West East
INT 2♥
2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

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2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

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2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

response to resolve a recurrent dilemma. Suppose you hold:

♠ A 7 4
♥ 3
♦ Q 10 7 6 4
♣ K 5 3

Your partner opens INT to which you respond 3♥. What do you do now? If you pass he might well hold:

♠ K Q 3
♥ 10 7 4
♦ A 9 8 7 2
♣ K 5 3

So you go down in 3NT where 5♥ would present no problem. If you decide to press on to 5♥ you may find to your annoyance that his hand is:

♠ J 10 9
♥ K Q 7
♦ K J 9
♣ Q 10 4

So stands virtually no chance, whereas 3NT is iron-clad. The ZNT transfer machinery allows you to judge instead of guessing. The sequence would start:

West East
INT 2♥
2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

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2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

Edited by Christopher de Hamel of Sotheby's and Richard Linenthal of Bonham's. *Fine Books and Book Collecting* is published by James Hall, 2a Upper Grove Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, price £15.

□ Bonham's have organized a special section next Thursday evening of sporting and livestock paintings aimed at tempting the farmers who are flooding into London for the Smithfield show.

It starts at 7 pm and as an extra lure a reception featuring wines from 18 English vineyards will be held at Bonham's before the sale begins. The wines have been donated by the vintners themselves to advertise their qualities. If you arrive on the dot of 5.30 pm and purchase a £4 catalogue you could probably sample all 18.

Cows and sheep make a particularly attractive showing among the paintings on offer. It is padded out with more conventional horses, dogs and game-birds, while poultry make a modest but attractive contribution. The paintings are mostly nineteenth century, with a few examples of the eighteenth and twentieth - prices mainly in the hundreds, but a few in the thousands. Viewing opens at 9 am on Monday.

□ The computer is forcing its way into the old-world collecting scene. Instead of setting off on a Saturday afternoon on an amble round the antique shops, collectors are now being urged to telephone Compute-Antique and find their treasures without stepping out of the house.

It is not quite as easy as that, of course. The computer contains a systematic listing of antique available for sale in antique shops in London and around Great Britain. The dealers pay £5 an item for a description to be stored in the computer; members of the general public ring Compute-Antique and state what type of object they are looking for. They are told (without fee) the names and addresses of up to four antique shops which are offering items close to their description.

The system was launched earlier this autumn and 200 dealers have already fed 2,500 descriptions of exciting objects into the system. So far the system, interior decoration (such as old fireplaces, mantelpieces), works of art, paintings and sculpture are listed; there are plans in hand to extend the system to cover silver, ceramics and other fields.

The number is 01-290 0033.

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Going on the transfer list

Every year, to the horror of the purists, the dictionaries recognize the existence of some new words, and it is only a matter of time before they are adopted into the language. Even Fowler's most ardent disciple would probably concede that no single word could evoke the instant horror of "Mick-krieg," and only those who detect all galleys would pretend that fashionable or smart captures the full sense of "chic."

Bidding is no dead language, either. The rules and ethics committee of the English Bridge Union spends untold hours limiting the endless proliferation of new systems and conventions. Many years ago, S. J. Simon suggested the proper test to judge a new convention: does it deprive you of a useful natural bid, and does it work?

Undeniably transfer bids fulfil both these qualifications. The whole range of responses to INT is considerably enriched at the negligible cost of dispensing with 20 as a weak take-out.

Let us start with an example which demonstrates how transfer bids can solve an everyday problem. East-West are using a weak no trump. West opens INT and this is East's hand:

♠ A Q J 7 6 4
♥ K Q 9
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 5

Whether this hand will produce a game opposite a weak no trump must obviously depend on how well the hands fit. Many players would respond 3♥ hoping for the best. Here are three

hands which West could hold to justify his opening bid of one no trump:

A ♠ 10 8 3
♥ K Q 2
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

B ♠ 10 8 3
♥ A K Q
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

C ♠ 10 8 3
♥ A K Q
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ K 5 2

On A, using standard methods, the bidding would be brief but ineffective.

Unless the opponents were kind enough to lead a red suit, INT would fail by anything from one to five tricks. This would be the sequence using transfer bids.

West East
INT 2♥
2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

2♥ 2♥

Chess/Harry Golombek

Dutch treats

The death in Amsterdam last week of Max Euwe, the former world champion, reminds one of the outstanding part the Dutch have played in world chess. Amsterdam is the seat of the organisation of FIDE (the world chess federation). Dr. Euwe, the very first FIDE President, was Dutch and no country has held more important chess events in this century than The Netherlands.

It is hard to determine why this should be, unless one believes in the boastful syllogism that chess is the pursuit of a civilized society and Holland, being one of the most civilized countries in the world, has indulged and is continuing to indulge in the playing of more chess than any other country. An agreeable facet of this situation is the friendly rivalry between the chess Dutch over the last 100 years, a rivalry in which the predominance has passed to and fro and in which the Netherlands have mostly held the advantage, though not perhaps of late.

At the 19th international tournament in Holland - in Amsterdam in 1889 - it was Amos Burn, an Englishman who won first prize, ahead of the great Emanuel Lasker, who won second prize. Lasker, the next international event, there, in 1893, H. E. Adkins won first prize with the remarkable score of 15 wins from 15 games. In the 20th century, there was a series of international events in which the Dutch played a leading role. We held the first international team tournament in London in 1927, but the next was held by the Dutch at The Hague in 1928.

The next great event in Holland was the 1938 AVRO tournament, a marvellous affair that included the world's strongest players and was won by Keres and Pilsch ahead of Botvinnik, Alekhine, Euwe, Reshevsky, Capablanca and Flohr.

In 1940 a series of winter tournaments, sponsored by the Hoogoven firm started at Beverwijk. These are still being held. In 1941, the 14th World Chess Championship Match, the first part of which was held at The Hague and was won well by Botvinnik.

In the early 1960s another series of great tournaments commenced in Amsterdam, sponsored by the Dutch branch of the IBM firm, and containing a strong selection of grandmasters and masters. In contradistinction to the Hoogoven tournaments it was held in early summer. This series of tournaments was announced as the last that was surprising in that Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, whose final tournament it was before he embarked on his title defence at Merano, failed to win first prize. This victory secured for the young Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman.

Yet another addition to the series of great tournaments was a magnificent one known as the Interpolis and held in the autumn. The first was held in 1977, the very high category of 14 and was won by Karpov. Tony Miles coming second. The world champion did not play in the 1978 event which was held in 1979 in which Lajos Portisch, the Hungarian champion, came first. But he played and came first in the next two, in 1979 and 1980, and these were of the astonishingly high category of 15. So too was the one

held in October this year, even though it was without Karpov who was otherwise engaged at Merano where he was defending his title against Korchnoi.

In his absence, first prize went to Alexander Beljavsky with a score of 7½, followed by Perrosian 7, Fortsch and Timman 6½, Ljubojevic 6, Andersson, Karpov and Spassky 5½, Larsen and Sosolko 4½, Hubner 4 and Miles 3. The talented young Karpov had been regarded as favourite for first prize, but for an 18-year-old player to tie

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Shoparound

with Beryl Downing

If you want to shine just add glitter

Anyone can sparkle this Christmas — if not with wit, at least with glitter. The fashion mood is for romance and escapism in decoration as well as in clothes and it doesn't cost a great deal to light a golden candle and push back the frontiers of economic gloom.

One of the most attractive candle departments just opened in London is at Harvey Nichols — the Point à la Ligne boutique which stocks a range of 36 colours in several sizes of candles from tapers at 44p each to 11 1/2 in candles at 61p each. There are also coordinating paper napkins, 89p pack of 20, and party plates at 35p

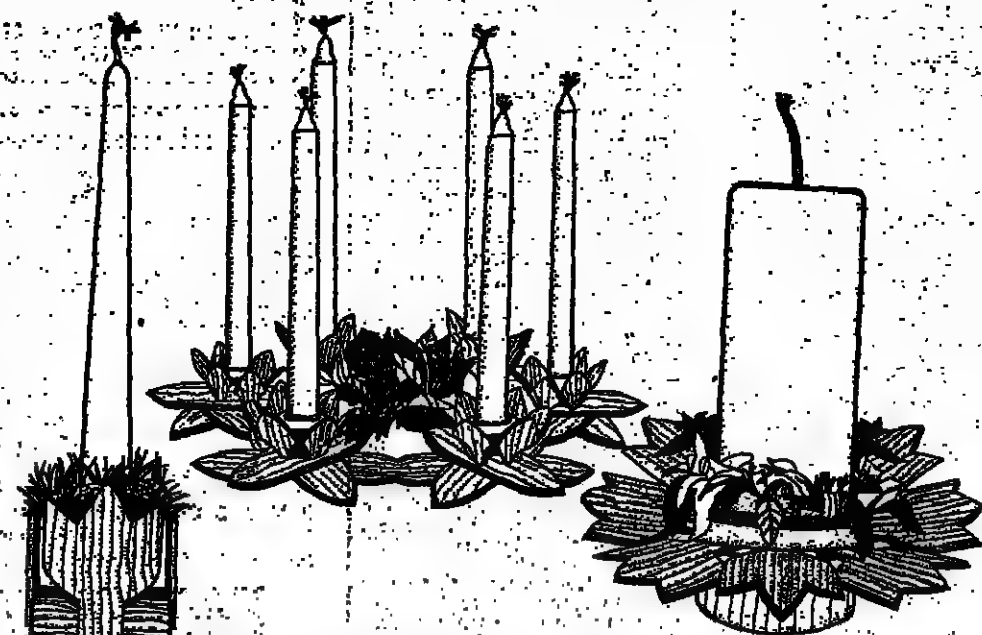
each, so you can plan your festive decor round almost any colour scheme.

Habitat, too, has candle coordinates — boxes of three dozen 5 1/4 in candles in brown, rust and green, red yellow and orange, blue green and olive or burgundy pink and grey, £2.50 per box. And the Candle Shop, 30 The Market, Covent Garden, boasts the widest size and colour range in Europe from 3p upwards.

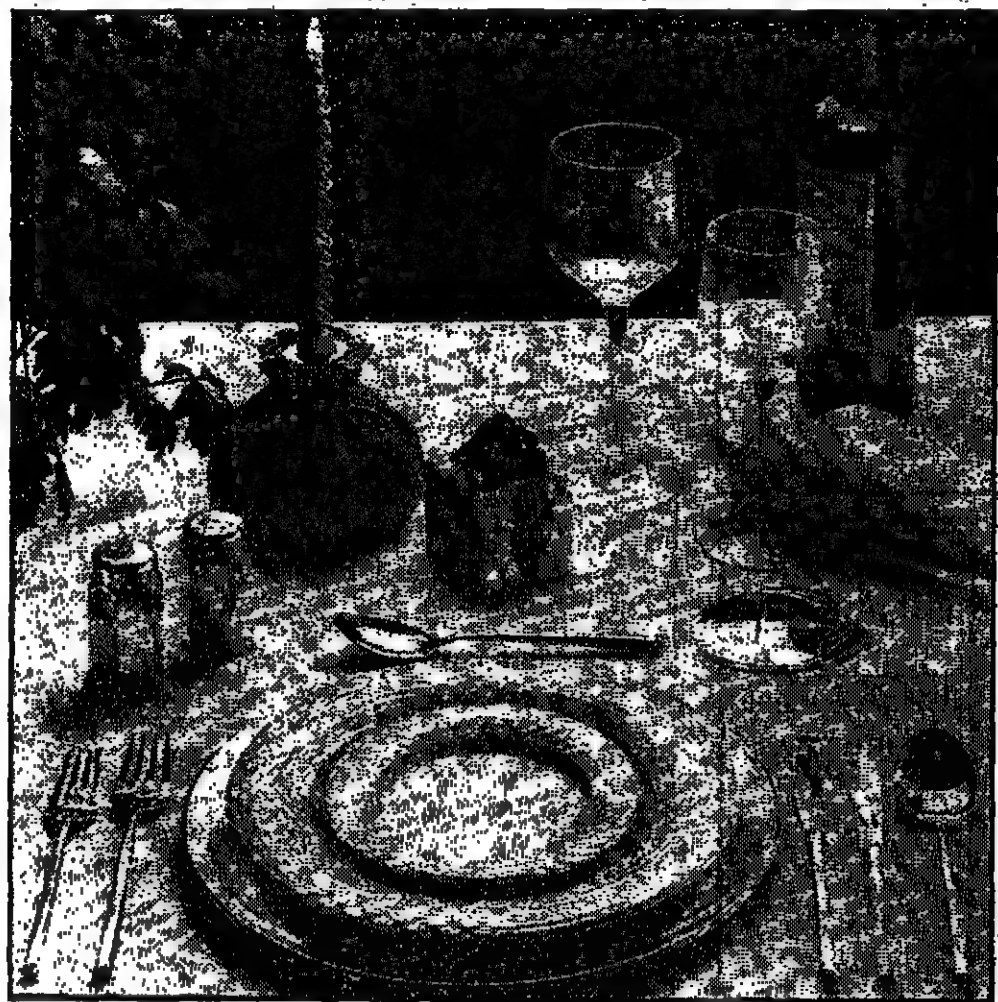
For sparkling cards and gift tags go to John Siddeley, 4 Harriet Street, London, SW1, whose elegant range has been created for him by Max Murphy Designs. No tawdry tinsel here, but the sort of sophisticated, simple

shapes in shimmering gold, silver and jewel colours that you would expect from this top interior designer. There are blank cards, 45p each, and tree hangings and gift tags at about 75p to £1 for a pack of five.

And if, by December 24, you feel your halo is slipping a little, try adding a little extra shine to your hair with a glitter spray. In an aerosol can, it is like a fine hair spray but leaves tiny shimmering pinpoints of gold or silver in your hair. Also, in red, blue, green or turquoise, for more dramatic effect, they cost £3.50 each plus £1 p & p from Schumi, 16 Pont Street, London, SW1, and branches.



Candle holders for any colour scheme — and any time of year — are in natural wood from Swedish, cut into decorative tulip designs. Single holder, £1.35; circular six candle holder £2.75; holder for fat candle, £1.75. Pineapple candle rings from 70p. All from The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.



Harvey Nichols is expanding its china and glass department and placing special emphasis on co-ordinating tableware, both traditional English and modern Continental, American and Japanese. From its ranges we selected a golden scheme to add sparkle to any Christmas table. White and gold plates, called Scala d'Oro by Hutschenreuter, 10 in £15.95, 6 in £7.95 (other sizes available); bronze seven piece cutlery set (small not shown) by Eurostar, £11.95; a box Havasport golden salt and pepper, £19.95; golden apple coasters, £18.95; a box of six, Swedish crystal goblets, Marja, large and medium each £8.50; 10 in silver candle holders, £18.95; a box of six, silver candle holders, £18.95. The silver-wrapped box is a candle too, £2.90. All from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Sparkling hand made glass tree ornaments to catch the light in every facet — box of six assorted shapes, £3.90 plus 70p p&p from Peter Knight, London E10, Bessonsfield and High Street, Essex.

□ Silvery catharine wheel, pack of five, £1 and glittery red heart gift tag, pack of five 75p, both by Max Murphy Designs at John Siddeley, 4 Harriet Street, London SW1.

□ Pack of four gold foil angels, £1.55 plus 20p p&p from The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.

□ Shiny red silk apples 40p each of £4.50 box of 12 and little green plastic apples, 30p each, both from Harvey Nichols.

□ Sequined velvet dove from a selection of Indian padded tree ornaments 65p each plus 15p p&p for one to three (20p for four to six) from Nice Irma's, 48 Goudge Street, London W1.



Perks for the palate

However traditional you like your Christmas meal to be, there is always room during the holiday for a small surprise to perk up the palate, so whether you are taking a present of food or wine to your hostess, or simply laying in stocks for your guests, here are some of the temptations I have tried and enjoyed:

■ Adventurous Cook's Basket, containing a selection of English Provender wine vinegars and green and pink peppercorns for marinades, stuffings, sauces — £8.50 (£2.50 p & p) from Hannells, 3 Davies Street, London, W1.

■ Hazelnut oil from Hédiard in Paris, £3.85 (99p p & p) for 50cl, or walnut oil, £2.45 (99p p & p) 50cl — both turn the plainest salad into something ambrosial — from Duff and Trotter, 40 Wilkinsons Street, London, SW8 1DB.

■ A famous name in tea is now back on the shelves — Hornumans. The range includes five very good quality teas, Earl Grey, Assam, Darjeeling, Ceylon in 125g cartons at about 44p or in packs of 20 tea bags, 35p, and Lapsang Souchong in cartons only. From selected Safeway and Tesco supermarkets.

■ For those who prefer coffee — four new flavours from Langford Brothers. French Roast is for those

who like very dark smoky coffee, Mocha for those who are rather weaker-kneed, Columbia and Kenya for those who like the flavour strong but not bitter. All filter fine, £1.90 for 250g packs from Heals and Liberty's or by post from the Slipper Tea and Produce Company, 24 West Park Road, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DA (by mail, two packs: £4.50, four packs £8.50 including postage).

■ For parties, big 4 1/2 lb pots of paré from Sainsbury, Brussels, £5.58 and Farmhouse, £5.12 are smooth. Duck, £5.76 until December 14 when it will be £6.48, and Turkey, £6.30 are coarser. Prices include the pot and are a saving of 12p per lb on each part when bought by the portion.

■ For cooks with no time to spare the best bought puddings and cakes to my taste are still at Marks and Spencer. Luxury Christmas Pudding with cider and rum, 3lb, £3.99; 2lb, £2.85; 1lb, £1.60; Luxury Christmas cake, £7.99, all rich, dark, fruity and moist. I also particularly liked their Biscuits for Cheese assortment, very crisp and just the right saltiness, 99p for 1.1lb.

■ For sweet-toothed gourmets — a chocolate bar 12in long to slice as you choose. The base is marzipan topped

with tin of cognac flavoured truffle, all wrapped in chocolate. In a gold foil box, the Cognac truffle is £3.75 plus 50p p & p from The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.

■ For those who prefer their liquor as a liquid asset I have been trying a selection of wines from the makers of my favourite pink champagne, Cordier Laurent Perrier. For party drinking they have five bottles of Cordier Vin de Table — the medium dry white is a very easy tipple, not acidic, not too sweet, at £2.80 a litre — and for something special to drink with the turkey the Laurent Perrier Grand Larcose 1973 is a beautifully balanced claret at £7.50. Corney and Barrow, 12 Helmer Row, EC1 and Rex Norris of Haywards Heath are among merchants who have a good selection of Cordier wines.

■ And to save you the trouble of shopping around for Christmas gifts, a survey of the major supermarkets shows that ASDA have the cheapest Gordon's gin at £5.78 with Littlewoods at £5.79. Teachers whisky is £6.09 at Tesco and Littlewoods, Haig £6.09 at Sainsbury, Courvoisier brandy £8.15 and Martell £8.25 at ASDA, £8.39 and £8.49 at Safeway.

Putting the dazzle into diamonds

Selling diamonds to Liberate must be as superfluous as flogging Magical to an oil sheikh, but Ivor Gordon is not a jeweller to be daunted by a little competition. When you also count Elizabeth Taylor and Elaine Stritch among your customers, dazzle is your business.

Although he comes from diamond country, South Africa, he's a studied economist and law before being lured into the jewelry business by the sheer magic of beautiful stones. He concentrated on the 'cut' variety as in South Africa it is illegal for anyone outside the factories to possess rough stones — none of this hidden treasure wrapped up in bits of plain paper that everyone in Heston Garden carries in his pocket, if we are to believe the recent television series *Diamonds*.

He was particularly fascinated by the beauty of coloured gems and set out to learn everything he could about their composition and the most effective ways of showing them to their best advantage. As a result he has developed a technique which is unique in London — the

setting of a diamond directly into the centre of another, precious or semi-precious stone.

These can be amethysts, tourmalines, sapphires or rubies — almost anything but emeralds, which would be likely to shatter — and for maximum effect the diamond must be at least half a carat. Only two rings have so far been made in this style — the first a diamond set in a cabochon amethyst, the second, illustrated, is an 18ct gold ring with the diamond set in a faceted pink tourmaline.

Not many such rings will be made, for even if there is a rush of customers clamouring to pay for £2,500 to own one, Ivor Gordon has the finely tuned South African awareness of the dangers of flooding the diamond market. In any case, he offers several other services to his clients, including remodelling their own jewels.

The design of jewelry is his greatest pleasure and he will create special pieces to suit a customer, either in modern style or in versions of delicate Edwardian settings. And if you buy a loose

stone for him to set it will first be sent off to a gem laboratory so that you can have documentary evidence of its purity, weight and colour.

Even if your price range is nearer to £100 rather than £1,000, you can still enjoy a visit to this tiny showroom at 49b Sloane Street, London SW1, lined with mirrors and pale grey moiré silk. Like the inside of a jewel box, there are charming Victorian rings and brooches of turquoise or pearls at about £145. Deco cuff links in platinum and diamonds at £325, chains of carved ebony linked with gold at £450.

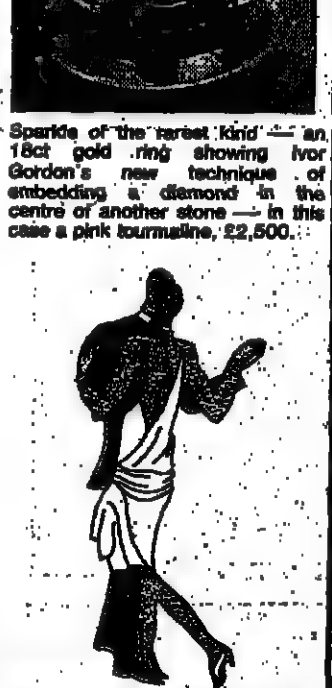
Whatever the price, half the fun will be discussing your choice with Ivor Gordon, for you cannot fail to catch his enthusiasm for beautiful things, trust this appreciation of good design.

If they have not been sprayed and his knowledge of quality. As his wife, Eleanor, put it: "You need professional guidance when you buy jewelry. You wouldn't do your own legal work or accountancy — you need someone who will show you exactly why you are spending your money and on what."



Dramatic American-Indian necklace in silver and turquoise, £127.25 at Liberty's, Regent Street, London W1; butterfly-shaped silver and turquoise brooch, £14.50 and 1920s-style dancing brooch in silver and enamel, £24 both from Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, London SW3.

Sparkle of the 'target bird' — an 18ct gold ring showing Ivor Gordon's new technique of embedding a diamond in the centre of another stone — in this case a pink tourmaline, £2,500.



Gardening/Roy Hay Putting down roots

Many people don't realize how easy it is to propagate a wide range of trees and shrubs by hard wood cuttings taken usually, but not always, in the dormant season from October to March. An exception is the gooseberry which seems to root better while the cutting still carries some leaves.

Hard wood cuttings take a year to root but most cuttings inserted towards the end of the one year may be planted in their permanent positions in the following autumn or the spring of the following year. I have found the proportion that root successfully is remarkably high, better often than with semi hard wood or soft cuttings.

They may be rooted in a well prepared bed in a sheltered but not shaded spot. Ordinary reasonably fertile garden soil is suitable, but work in some well decayed manure or garden compost. Make sure the ground is free from perennial weeds.

Make a shallow trench about 6 to 8 in deep and put an inch or so of sharp sand in the bottom. Stand the cuttings on this against one wall of the trench about six inches apart and firm them well in. If they should be loosened by frost in the winter tread them in firmly again. The length of the cuttings varies but normally they should be about 18 to 24 in long. The soft upper parts of shoots, if green and unripened, should be discarded and only firm wood used.

Roses root fairly easily. I have grown 'Peace', 'Iceberg', 'Buccleugh', 'Queen Elizabeth' and many more successfully on their own roots. Less strong growers do not make such vigorous plants. The advantage of roses on their own roots over those budded on briar stocks is that there is no suckering problem — any shoots that come from below ground are those of the cultivated variety.

Insert the cutting so that the lower half to two thirds is in the ground. Normally one leaves any buds on the part of the cutting to be buried, but in the case of gooseberries and red currants the lower buds are rubbed off because these bushes are normally grown on a leg and we do not want shoots coming from below ground.

With black currants we want to encourage new shoot from below ground so we leave all the buds on.

A number of trees root easily from hard wood cuttings. I have often heard of young trees dying but the stake taking root. Willows, mulberries and poplars root easily. Shrubs that are easily propagated in this way are forsythias, weigelas, philadelphus, privet, flowering currant (ribes), pyracantha and the Russian vine, *Polygonum baldschuanicum*.

I am often asked to recommend a good book about plant propagation. The latest to appear is *The Complete Book of Plant Propagation* by Robert Wright and Alan Titchmarsh (Ward Lock £7.95). It contains chapters that will be appreciated by both readers — mist propagation, budding and grafting, for example. But many other methods are described which may sound complicated but are really simplicity itself — soft, semi hard cuttings, layering in the ground and air layering.

People think that propagation is a great mystery, needing green fingers. But all that is really needed is intelligent observation and patience. Much depends in many cases on the stage of development of the cuttings. Those taken too young and soft may rot; taken too late when the wood has hardened up they may take months to root, if indeed they ever do.

But the beauty of propagating one's own plants is that it costs nothing but an hour or two of our time, and great is the satisfaction when we have managed to put roots on a cutting which everybody said would never root.

Jobs for December

Finish clearing up leaves, the remains of vegetable crops and summer annuals. Cut down herbaceous plants and fork over the border, working in the soil and removing the roots.

Prune apple and pear trees. If they have not been sprayed with a tar oil or DNO spray for several years do so before the end of the year. The tar oil will clear any green algae growth.

Bulbs growing in pots or bowls outdoors can be brought in soon. When tulips and daffodils show two inches of growth, and when the hyacinths bud, it is well clear of the bulb they should stand in the hall or a cool room for a few days before bringing them into a warm sitting room.

Sprinkle the leaves of house plants with tepid water to remove dust; plants with many small leaves may be dunked in a sink full of water.

When you buy your Christmas tree spray it with S600, which now comes in aerosol packs, to prevent the needles from dropping. It also helps to keep holly, ivy and other evergreen decorations from shrivelling prematurely.

If you are moving or planting evergreens spray their leaves too with S600 to prevent shrivelling by drying winds before they have had time to make new roots. S600, also Stayoff, the spray to apply now to discourage birds from stealing buds on fruit trees and hedges, ornamental trees and shrubs and ornamental berries, should be obtainable from good garden shops or from Synchemicals, 44 Grange Walk, London, SE13EN.

The Times Cook Shonia Crawford Poole The cassoulet cult

There are as many versions of cassoulet as there are of any other time-honoured country dish which has won wide popularity. In the area around Toulouse there are restaurants to which *cassoulet* lovers make a detour as part of a tour.

And with any dish thus acclaimed, there are numerous versions of it. Strong and often differing views are held on what it should and should not contain. There are schools of thought for and against the inclusion of tomato, wine and other ingredients. I even came across a fine example in Carcassonne this summer, that only the most basic ingredients which were organically grown (or, in the case of the meat, raised).

For a dish which is no more than a glorified rendering of baked beans with hangovers, it excites strong passions. Some people like it thick and sludgy while others prefer the main elements to remain more of their own identity. So before giving the recipe I should say that my *cassoulet* has no wine and no tomato and is not sludgy, unless cooked too long.

If you did not make *confit* of goose, duck or pork from last week's recipe, you can substitute part-roasted goose or duck, or chunks of pork which have been quickly browned. Alternatively, use bacon in the piece.

If you plan to make the dish and freeze it, and it freezes very well, add the topping of breadcrumbs only for the final reheating.

Cassoulet
Serves at least 10
900g (2lbs) white kidney beans or cannellini beans
3 large onions, chopped
5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
225g (8oz) green streaky bacon, diced
1.25 litres (2 1/2 pints) well flavoured meat or poultry stock
450g (1lb) Toulouse sausages; or other rough cut pure pork sausages
1 small shoulder or leg of lamb, boned
2 or 3 large pieces of *confit* of goose, duck or pork
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 bay leaves

Soak the beans overnight in plenty of cold water. Next day, rinse them in fresh water and put them in a large pan. Cover them with water and bring slowly to the boil. Skim the pot well and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover and continue cooking until the beans are tender but not falling apart. This can take anything from about 40 minutes to two hours, depending on the age and whiteness of the beans. Drain them and set them aside.

Make the stock while the beans are cooking. Put the onion, garlic and bacon in a pan and sweat them gently together on a low heat until the onion is soft. They should not brown. Add the stock and simmer, covered, until needed.

In a frying pan, brown the sausages in a little goose fat or lard, then set them aside. Cut the lamb into big cubes and brown these too on all sides.

Rub a large casserole, preferably an earthenware one, with a cut clove of garlic. Cut the sausages into four pieces and put them in the casserole with the browned lamb and pieces of *confit*. Add the bay leaves and thyme, and depending on the strength of the stock, salt and pepper. The *confit* is fairly salty so of course, but the beans do absorb a lot of seasoning. Cover the meat with the beans then pour in the stock. Sprinkle the top of the dish with a thick layer of breadcrumbs and bake it, uncovered, in a moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. By this time the lamb and sausages should be cooked through and the breadcrumbs will have formed a golden brown crust.

If you have prepared the *cassoulet* up to the baking stage then allowed it to cool, you should cook it for an hour before topping it with the breadcrumbs and baking for another 1 1/2 hours. This is to ensure that the lamb and sausages are thoroughly cooked.

Serve the *cassoulet* from its cooking pot with no more than a crisp green salad and perhaps fruit or cheese to follow.

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Business News

THE TIMES Saturday December 5 1981

Personal investment, pages 18 and 19

Vives get raw deal from tax man, page 18

Housing starts set to exceed forecasts

By Paul Phillips
Private housing starts are expected to exceed original forecasts by a significant margin, according to a survey by the National House Builders' Federation (NHBF). The survey, which covers the period from October to December, indicates that the total number of new houses started will be around 118,000, compared with the original forecast of 115,000. This increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of houses started in the private sector and a decline in the public sector. The NHBF also notes that the average cost of a new house has risen by 10% over the last year, reflecting increases in building materials and labour costs.

North Sea oil public share plan scrapped

By Frances Williams
The Government has abandoned its plans to launch North Sea oil savings bonds, which would have given the public a chance to share in the huge revenues from Britain's offshore oilfields. The decision follows directly from the announcement in October that the Government is to sell off into private hands the oilfields owned by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC). The bonds, which would have been issued in denominations of £25 or £50, were intended to provide a means by which the public could invest in the oil industry. However, the Government has decided that the bonds are no longer viable, as the sale of the oilfields will result in a large transfer of assets to private hands.

Development controls on industry eased

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent
The Government has decided to ease the system of industrial development certificates (IDCs), designed originally to ensure that new industrial development was sited in areas of need. The new rules, which will come into effect in January, will allow companies to apply for IDCs for a wider range of projects, including the expansion of existing factories and the construction of new offices. The Government also announced that it will reduce the fees charged for IDCs, making it easier for small businesses to obtain them. These measures are part of a broader effort to encourage industrial development and job creation.



Mrs Julia Morley, organizer of the Miss World contest and her husband Mr Eric Morley, joint chairman of Belhaven.

Miss World fails to help Belhaven

By Paul Malmgren
The Miss World contest is not giving the boost to profits that the group's recent recovery in the group's recent recovery. The company says that the contest, which is run by Mrs. Julia Morley, has not been as successful as hoped. The group's profits for the year ended in September were down by 10% on the previous year. The company also reports that the contest has been a financial drain, with costs exceeding revenues. Despite this, the group remains committed to the contest, which is one of its main sources of income.

Arms spending 23 pc above target

By Melvyn Westlake
Arms spending by the Ministry of Defence was running more than 23 per cent higher than the target set in the 1981-82 financial year. The Ministry has announced that it will have to increase its spending to meet the target for the next year. The current spending is £11,854.2m, compared with the target of £9,650m. The Ministry says that the increase is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the cost of raw materials and a need to accelerate the development of new weapons. The Ministry also notes that it will have to cut back on other areas of spending to meet the target.

Confusion as Marathon battle nears deadline

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Dec 4
The battle for Marathon Oil took another confusing turn yesterday as shareholders grappled with the choice of offers to accept by midnight in Washington, the deadline for two standing tenders from Mobil Oil, at \$126 (£65) a share and US Steel at \$125 a share. The merger has come to a standstill, however, because of a court ruling temporarily blocking Mobil's \$6,500m (£3,367m) bid on antitrust grounds and another court ruling yesterday temporarily preventing US Steel from going ahead until a judge rules on a challenge from Mobil.

Bid failure fear sets off Fraser price fall

By Our Financial Staff
House of Fraser shares fell 12p to 162p yesterday after the publication of a newspaper report predicting that the Monopolies Commission will rule against a £225m bid from Lorrho, whose shares rose 2p to 80p. The commission has been conducting a nine-month investigation into the bid from Lorrho, which holds 29.9 per cent of the House of Fraser equity and its ruling is expected to be published next Monday or Tuesday. The Department of Trade declined to comment on the suggestion that Lorrho's ambitions had been blocked by the commission, and both companies maintained yesterday that they had not been informed of its findings. It is thought that if Lorrho does not receive clearance for a full-scale bid, the reasons put forward by the commission will include Lorrho's lack of retailing experience and the publicly expressed bad feeling between the Lorrho board and the House of Fraser directors headed by chairman Professor Roland Smith. There is a precedent for the commission turning down a bid on the grounds of mutual management ill-will in the Rank Organisation offer for De La Rue in 1963. It is thought that if Lorrho did succeed in gaining control, many of the House of Fraser directors would resign immediately. Only Sir Hugh Fraser, former chairman of the retailing group which includes Harrod's, supported Lorrho and its chief executive Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland. Sir Hugh switched his support to Lorrho in January. House of Fraser fought off a bid from Boots in 1973 after a referral to the Monopolies Commission. In February this year Lorrho, which had acquired 29.9 per cent through its acquisition of Scottish and Universal Investments from House of Fraser, offered 150p in cash for each Fraser share, which was quickly rejected by the board with the exception of Sir Hugh and Mr Philip Hawley. House of Fraser's latest results show that pre-tax profits rose from £10.2m to £12.8m for the six months to last August.

TUC urged to withdraw from Neddy

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor
The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) has been urged to withdraw from the Neddy, a new housing development in the north of Ireland. The union's involvement in the project has been the subject of a long-running dispute, with the union claiming that it has been unfairly treated. The union's executive has decided to continue its involvement in the project, but it has been urged to withdraw. The union's involvement in the project has been a source of controversy, with some people claiming that the union is using its power to interfere in the private sector. The union has responded by saying that it is simply trying to protect the interests of its members.

Stock Markets

FT Index 529.3 up 9.4	FT 100 Index 52.5 up 1.2
FT All Share 312.04 up 3.01	Bargains 18,813
Sterling	
\$1.9420 up 70 points	Index 91.9 up 0.5
New York: \$1.9372	
Dollar	
Index 105.5 down 0.5	DM2.242 down 60 pts
\$425.50 up \$9.50	New York: \$422.70
Gold	
3 mth sterling 14 1/2	3 mth Euro \$ 124-12 1/2
6 mth sterling 14 1/2	6 mth Euro \$ 124-12 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
Avon Ridge	10p to 22 1/2p
Beecham	10p to 21 1/2p
Billy Hambo	8p to 25p
Butterfield-Harvey	2 1/2p to 25p
Transworld Metal	10p to 78 1/2p
CEC	10p to 78 1/2p
Imperial Chemical	10p to 29 1/2p
Marshall & Sons	10p to 41 1/2p
Monk A.	10p to 15 1/2p
Mothercare	10p to 15 1/2p
Pittman & Sons	10p to 28 1/2p
Plaxton	10p to 34 1/2p
Thames Valley	10p to 34 1/2p
Unilever	10p to 60 1/2p
Falls	
Assan Frontier	5p to 20 1/2p
Cowdrey	5p to 21 1/2p
Davies & Newton	7p to 68p
ERF Ridge	3p to 37p
Greenall	4p to 28 1/2p
Hanson Trust	4p to 28 1/2p
Hill C Bristol	7p to 13 1/2p
Hoover	5p to 80 1/2p
House of Fraser	4p to 52 1/2p
Hamlet	4p to 52 1/2p
Racal	7p to 41 1/2p
Routledge & K	5p to 13 1/2p
Secur	5p to 13 1/2p
UKO Int	5p to 36p
Utd Scientific	8p to 50 1/2p

Setback for the dollar

The pound gained 70 points in London yesterday to finish at \$1.9420. The dollar, which had fallen back late on Thursday after the United States Federal Reserve Board's one point cut in its discount rate to 12 per cent, received a further setback from bad unemployment figures but recovered late in the European day to close at 60 points down at DM2.242. The Fed's cut, the second in a month, reflects both the deepening recession and a continuing decline in credit demand. With minutes prices of Treasury bonds rose sharply. The Treasury's 14 per cent bonds, due in 30 years, rising about 2.5 points, or \$25 for each \$1,000 bond, the issue closed at 107 1/2 to yield 12.99 per cent. Analysts said the bond market rally, which began at the end of October, could be given new impetus. Most expect interest rates to continue to decline, with another discount rate cut next month, but to start rising by mid-year.

Japan's surprise

Japan's real growth in gross national product is likely to be 4 per cent this year and not the forecast 4.7 per cent, Government officials said in Tokyo after their economist announced an increase of only 0.6 per cent in the July to September quarter. They admitted the news was a surprise. The Japanese economy has been hit hard by a combination of factors, including a rise in the cost of raw materials and a need to accelerate the development of new weapons. The Japanese government has announced that it will have to increase its spending to meet the target for the next year. The current spending is £11,854.2m, compared with the target of £9,650m. The Ministry says that the increase is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the cost of raw materials and a need to accelerate the development of new weapons. The Ministry also notes that it will have to cut back on other areas of spending to meet the target.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

The sauce of the Scots
A team of dons has had the sauce to invent a British soy sauce. Its efforts to rival the traditional Chinese product have won it the Confederation of British Industry Scotland innovation prize for 1981. The dons, at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, plan to open a factory to capture a share of the £15m British market, supplied from China, Japan and Korea. Mr Ted North, director of the university's Centre for Industrial Innovation, said: "We are taking some academic work from the microbiology department and turning it into a business. We can match the Eastern product for price, quality and consistency. As the Japanese are drinking whisky made in Japan, so we can use soy sauce made here." The team has raised cash to set up a factory at Cumbernauld, which will open in March and eventually employ 10 people. It plans to branch out with other soy bean products.

Playboy to seek its licences back

Playboy, which lost its gambling licences for its London casinos this year, will appeal to have the licences restored at Kingsbridge Crown Court on January 25. If the appeal fails, Trident Television, which has agreed to buy the casinos, subject to shareholders' approval, will try to obtain licences. Trident is reported as saying that if it is successful in obtaining the licences it will scrap Playboy's image, including the bunnies. ICL is to announce more collaborative ventures with computer and electronics companies on Monday. The management, which took control of the struggling computer manufacturer this summer, has already reached collaborative agreements with Fujitsu, of Japan, Three Rivers, of the United States, and Miel, of Canada. The company, which lost \$1,700m (£875m) last year, said there would be a large loss this year. In the first nine months, the company has lost \$436.1m, compared with \$1,470m in the same period of last year, and the company said it was no secret that it expects a fourth-quarter loss. In Paris, M. Philippe Lambrault, Renault's sales director, said the French car maker may produce next year sales higher than last year's record of 1.57 million because of the age of French cars and technical innovations.

REAGAN MAY TAX GAS PROFIT

Washington, Dec 4—The Reagan Administration is seriously considering accepting a windfall profits tax on the production of natural gas prices, despite its previous rejection. Administration officials have revived the idea as they grapple with huge budget problems for the fiscal year which starts next October. Depending on how it is structured, a windfall profits tax could yield \$10,000m to \$20,000m a year, which would help narrow the huge budget deficit projected for 1983 and beyond. The Administration has often said it philosophically favours natural gas deregulation, but it has stoutly opposed any windfall profits tax on the extra revenue such a move would generate for gas producers. Earlier this year, President Reagan promised a group of congressmen from energy-producing states that he would veto any such tax.

JOBING BREAK FOR A WOMAN


A woman has at last crashed into the male preserve of jobbing on the London Stock Exchange. Pichin, Denny, a leading City jobbing firm, has appointed Miss Joanna Bunkham to deal on the gilt pitch. At 20, she is extremely young for such an exacting position, to which she has been promoted after only two years with the firm. At school in Southend she gained 10 "O" levels and an "A" level in English, and she is now awaiting the results of Stock Exchange practice examinations. The Manchester exchange has had women jobbers for about five years. But London in the past 10 years has seen women on the floor only as clerks, called bull buttons, and there has been a handful of women stockbrokers. It is unlikely, however, that Miss Bunkham will don the black top hat which traditionally gilds dealers' worn.

The 'flexible' Government

The Government's spending plans are a sign of its flexibility in dealing with changed circumstances, Mr Leon Brittan, the Treasury Chief Secretary, told Manchester Stock Exchange yesterday. He said the measures also showed the Government's determination to help industry. Low interest rates could best be achieved by holding down borrowing and he said this was the most effective form of aid to industry. The Government was also helping employers by reducing the cost of insurance contributions, which had gone up less than inflation. Nationalized industries had been given increased allocations of funds. Mr Brittan said the Treasury had not pressed to hold spending to the level planned at the time of the Budget. All the Cabinet discussions had been about how much more to allow.

Car sales may boom

The Chrysler Corporation, which has not reported a full-year profit since 1977, expects to do so next year, the company said in Detroit yesterday. It said sales were expected to improve then. But the company, which lost \$1,700m (£875m) last year, said there would be a large loss this year. In the first nine months, the company has lost \$436.1m, compared with \$1,470m in the same period of last year, and the company said it was no secret that it expects a fourth-quarter loss. In Paris, M. Philippe Lambrault, Renault's sales director, said the French car maker may produce next year sales higher than last year's record of 1.57 million because of the age of French cars and technical innovations.



Lloyds Bank

Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Limited has reduced its Base Rate from 15% to 14.5% p.a. with effect from Friday, 4th December 1981.

Other rates of interest are reduced as follows:

- 7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 13% to 12.5% p.a.
- Special Savings Plan - from 15% to 14.5% p.a.

The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of

Lloyds Bank International Limited
The National Bank of New Zealand Limited

Lloyds Bank Limited, 31 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Insurance

Wives get a raw deal

Last year a friend was badly injured when her horse fell on top of her. Happily she made a full recovery, but only after weeks in hospital and months more hobbling gingerly around at home.

Her husband had great difficulty paying for and organizing help with the children, the house and the washing. "What a pity" she said to me "that I was not insured for this sort of thing."

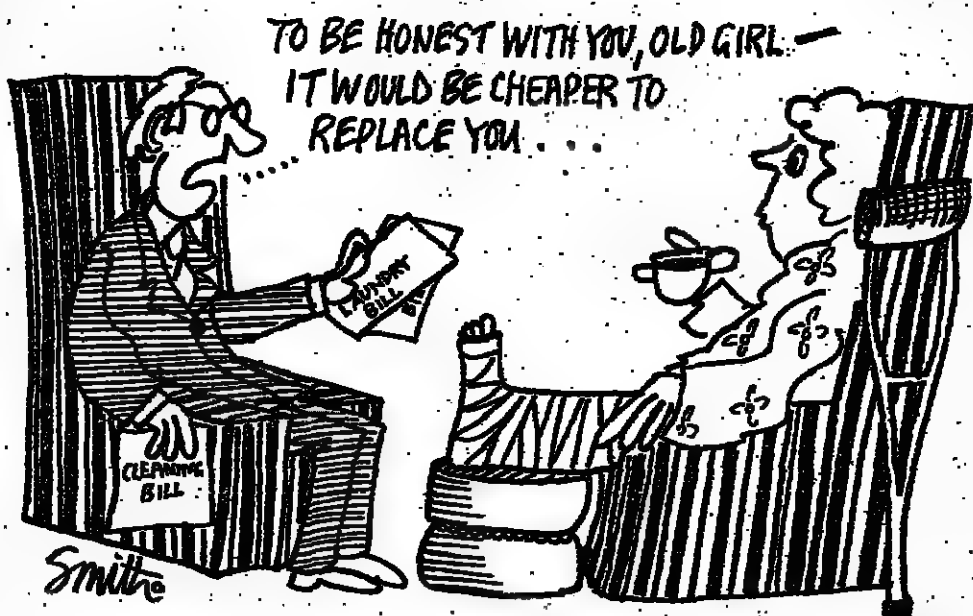
But few housewives are — mainly because insurers do not like this end of the business. Only a handful of companies among the dozens now cashing in on the booming permanent health insurance market will provide disability insurance for wives or mothers who do not work.

They are all, on the other hand, falling over themselves to sell non-working wives term life insurance on the basis of their replacement cost.

The hypocrisy of this attitude was pointed out recently by a reader who has been confused by the difficulties of finding permanent health cover for his wife. "Legal and General" has recently obtained a great deal of publicity for its campaign to sell term insurance for wives," he said. "A few weeks ago I and G assessed the worth of a wife's work at £204 a week."

As he so rightly points out, the same problems of paying for a replacement for a wife's services arise if she is ill or injured as well. But Legal and General, like many of its competitors, refuses to touch this business.

The standard excuse for not giving cover to non-earning wives is the difficulty, they claim, of assessing whether a claimant is really disabled or ill enough to be incapable of performing their housewifely duties.



So who will sell permanent health insurance to non-working wives? At present only Commercial Union, Langham Life, Norwich Union, the Permanent Phoenix and Yorkshire General offer these policies. Most will cover for a maximum of £40 a week for the non-earning housewife with Commercial Union going to £60 a week — still hardly within shouting distance of £204 figure trumpeted by L and G.

Rates vary according to the insured, the age of the insured and the deferment period — that is the number of weeks of illness or incapacity the policyholder agrees to waive before claiming.

A 28-year-old woman insuring for £40 a week with a deferment period of 13 weeks would pay annual premiums of £37.20 at Norwich Union, £41.16 at Phoenix and £54 at Commercial Union. Stretching the deferment period to

26 weeks the annual premiums drop £27.60, £36.12, £42.27 respectively. A 40-year-old woman insuring for £40 a week with a deferment period of 13 weeks would pay annual premiums of £55.20 at Norwich Union, £60.96 at Phoenix and £78.10 at Commercial Union with 26 weeks deferment the figures would be £41.60, £51.56 and £61.96 respectively.

But virtually all the insurance companies load the premiums paid by women whether they are housewives or income earners. In some cases they may be expected to cough up 50 per cent more than a man. Moreover, with the exception of Langham Life they all exclude pregnancy or pregnancy related problems or qualify the benefit in some way. Commercial Union for instance has a straight exclusion. Norwich Union and several of the others add a three months extra waiting time

onto the deferment period if the illness is pregnancy related.

Whether or not these extra loadings and exclusions are justified is now the subject of heated discussion in insurance circles. As we wrote on October 31, the Equal Opportunities Commission is backing the case of Mrs June Almeida against Legal and General, the housewives friend. She found her company group permanent health scheme excluded "all means peculiar to the female sex".

The hearing has been delayed several times at the behest of L and G which, it appears, is having some difficulty in putting up any acceptable actuarial evidence in support of this discrimination.

Margaret Drummond

Christmas bonus for pensioners

This week most of the 11 million or so pensioners who qualify should have received their £10 Christmas bonus from the Government.

Now that the bonus has become a regular feature, by law, the Department of Health and Social Security has streamlined the way in which it is paid. For most pensioners, the bonus is included in their pension or benefit books and paid automatically in the week in which it falls due. Some pensioners are still paid by post, however, but even so the majority in this situation should also have received the extra cash.

Because the bonus is now a legal entitlement, the groups of people who get it are laid down in law and do not change from year to year. As in previous years, the bulk of those qualifying are the nine million retirement pensioners and those living on supplementary pensions.

In addition, war widows, industrial widows and orphans, widow pensioners also qualify. So too do those receiving invalidity pensions, non-contributory pension, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance, invalid care allowance and a war pension or industrial injury unemployment supplement.

War disablement pensioners who have passed pension age and retired, but who for some reason are not getting one of the qualifying benefits, also are entitled to the bonus.

Anyone who feels that he or she should have received a bonus and who has not done so by the end of the month should get in touch with their nearest DHSS office.

Ian McDonald

Interest rates

Banks drag their feet

Home buyers with a loan from one of the high street banks have been given a clear indication of what to expect in future.

Bank base rates have now come down a full 1.5 per cent since October 8 when the banks last fixed their new "stabilised" mortgage rates. There is still no firm commitment to a cut for bank home buyers.

It cannot have escaped borrowers' attention that the mortgage rate was "stabilised" at the most advantageous moment for the banks — when rates had peaked.

The notion that borrowers will recoup their losses because the banks will be equally slow about adjusting rates on the way up is almost certainly wishful thinking. The excuse offered by the banks for not cutting mortgage rates is that they did not push them up far enough last time round.

This may well be true but the uneasy feeling remains that they are not going to be out of pocket on their leading to home buyers and if they do not make their profit one way they will recoup it another. Until the banks cut their home loan rates the building societies will not move.

However, bank customers with an overdraft will benefit straight away from the 0.5 per cent cut in base rates; overdraft rates came down from around 18 to 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent or more. Personal loan rates are unchanged.

For investors — particularly children and pensioners who pay little or no tax — National Savings Bank investment account at 15 per cent now offers a worthwhile differential over bank seven-day deposit rates and there is a real incentive to make a switch, though money funds like Simco and Tyndall

paying just under 15 per cent offer a more flexible alternative to the NSB investment account.

A money fund offers withdrawal on seven days notice and investments earn interest up to the time of withdrawal. NSB has an unnecessarily complicated system whereby interest is paid on whole p.p.s. invested for whole p.p.s. months and it is almost impossible to achieve the advertised 15 per cent basic rate taxpayer's who want easy access to their money will undoubtedly do best with a building society extra interest account. Almost all the societies now run them, though the terms vary (usually the notice period) and some impose interest rate penalties even if you give the required notice of withdrawal. These are the accounts to avoid.

Most of the big, first division societies pay a full 1 per cent over the BSA recommended rate on extra interest accounts and there are smaller societies offering anything up to 11.75 per cent on six-months' notice accounts — Guardian, Holmesdale, Benefit and Lambeth to mention these. If you do not want your money tied up for long periods, the Bolton (London based) Chatham Reliance and Peckham Mutual all offer 11 per cent net of basic rate tax for money on one month's notice of withdrawal.

Returns at Varying Rates of Tax

	Non-taxpayer	30%	50%
Bank 7-day deposits:			
(Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays)	12.5	8.75	8.0
(Midland)	12.25	8.5	7.8
Building Societies:			
*Extra interest accounts	10.75	10.75	8.6
NSB investment account	15.0	10.5	8.0
Local authority yearling bonds	14.625	10.2	8.8
Money Funds	14.9	10.4	8.9

*Notice periods will vary between societies.

Taxation

Divorce — a Revenue problem

Frustration over the Government's avoidance of implementing any reform of the tax system is beginning to reach boiling point. Even the Law Society, an organisation not exactly renowned for hasty pronouncements, has been moved to make a special plea for urgent amendments to the tax system to address some of the glaring inequities.

An accelerating divorce rate and a much higher incidence of working wives are just two of the social changes which have not been reflected in our system of taxation.

"Under current tax laws, a separated spouse and parent is placed in a far more advantageous tax position than a married spouse, and this appears to be contrary to public policy," says the Law

Society in its memorandum to the Inland Revenue.

The present income tax rules treat a married woman's income as though it were part of her husband's income. Surprisingly, in these days of sex equality, this has been regarded as a particularly glaring anomaly.

The Government published a Green Paper on the taxation of husband and wife in December 1980, setting out various optional methods of doing away with inequities. It then virtually brushed the whole matter under the carpet by announcing that there was no chance of any implementation until the end of the decade at the earliest.

Most of the professional organisations which have submitted representations to the Revenue on the Green Paper have come down heavily

in favour of total separation for tax purposes of the affairs of husband and wife.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is pressing hard for the most radical solution — the abolition of the married man's allowance and the surplus to be used to increase child benefits, and other organisations and individuals have supported this line.

And this option would also solve the anomalies complained of by the Law Society in its recent memorandum to the Revenue. It points out that under the present rules, the break-up of a marriage leads to a radically different tax treatment compared with married couples who stay together.

Draw Johnston

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Add to your savings at any time — your money earns 3% extra interest above the Share Account rate if your balance is between £2,500 (the minimum) and £9,999. The interest increases automatically to 1% extra on the whole amount for balances of £10,000 and over. Your interest can be paid to you half-yearly or added to your account to earn interest itself.

You can withdraw any amount any time by giving us 28 days' notice. You only lose interest for 28 days on the amount you withdraw.

Guaranteed Extra Interest Capital Bond

11³/₄% worth **16.79%**

The 5-year investment for £500 and over that guarantees you 2% extra interest above our variable Share Account rate.

And you can withdraw all or part of your money at any time by giving us 90 days' notice. You only lose interest on the amount you withdraw during the notice period. Your money is of course available at the end of the 5 years without loss of interest.

Interest can be paid to you as regular income, monthly or half-yearly. Or you can leave your interest invested in your Bond where it will itself earn yet more interest.

* basic rate income tax paid † gross to income tax payers

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Nationwide
Building Society

Loans for home buyers cut

Abbey National Building Society is cutting its rates to first time borrowers and reducing the differentials charged to those who borrow more than average.

First time buyers will be able to borrow up to £15,000 at 14.5 per cent — 0.5 per cent below the current basic rate — and the reduction will last for the first year of the loan. After that date, the interest rate reverts to the normal basic rate of 15 per cent.

The thresholds for charging higher rates for larger borrowers have been raised also to £25,000 — below that figure borrowers will pay the usual 15 per cent. For loans between £25,000 and £30,000 the rate will be 15.5 per cent and above that figure loans will cost 16 per cent. The new rates will apply to existing borrowers from April 1, 1982.

Car tax dilemma

A disabled Danish woman who works in a hostel for the homeless in Oxford fears she will have to leave Britain after being ordered to pay £400 tax on her car, or have it impounded. Miss Margit Vejje, aged 30, a spina bifida sufferer, bought the car in Denmark.

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TG/12/81

EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE



Mr Bill Wittering: compensation came in the form of an apology.

Home sellers — beware

When Mr Bill Wittering bought his house near Royston in Hertfordshire, the estate agent's particulars told him it had main drainage. It was only after he had moved in that he discovered this was not true. What he had was an inefficient septic tank, which had to be emptied periodically at a cost of £25. It eventually cost him £150 to connect the house to the sewer. All that he got from the estate agent's by way of compensation was an apology.

Mr Wittering ran foul of one of the anomalous and potentially costly booby traps which litter the complex minefield of consumer law. Two MPs who have drawn high places in the ballot for private members' Bills are determined to defuse this situation.

Estate agents' particulars are not subject to the Trade Descriptions Act, and are as a consequence notoriously imaginative and unreliable. My own house, I recall, was described as being "on the borders of leafy Canonbury" though it is much closer to treacherous Dalston Junction. In Cornwall I once viewed a house where the agents' description failed to mention that the peculiar

layout dictated that the street door opened into the main bedroom, and from North Wales I was sent a set of particulars which carried a photograph of the wrong house.

On file at the Consumers' Association there are cases in which a freehold turned out to be leasehold, where a "suburban view" was found to be dominated by a rubbish tip, and in which every room in the house had been wrongly measured so that, for example, a bedroom claimed to be 8 ft 7 in by 8 ft 6 in was only 9 ft 3 in by 8 ft 3 in.

Most people are luckier than Mr Wittering, and discover the mistakes and mis-statements before they are committed to the house, but not always before they have incurred expenses in travelling to look at properties, or in commissioning surveys.

The situation will change if Mr Geoffrey Roberts, MP for Cannock, succeeds with his Trade Descriptions (Amendment) Bill, which would make it an offence for an estate agent to describe properties inaccurately. The Bill, which is sponsored by Consumers' Association, also aims to

remedy another deficiency in the Trade Descriptions Act which was highlighted as long ago as 1976, when the late Sir John Mervyn, as Director General of Fair Trading, carried out a review. This is that tour operators and other businesses providing services are treated more leniently than shopkeepers and others selling goods.

With services, traders who make false or misleading statements only commit an offence if they do it knowingly or recklessly.

This is why misdescriptions in holiday brochures almost invariably go unpunished by anything worse than public reprimands in the reports of the Advertising Standards Authority, which has recently remarked quite a state of them. Though the swimming pool proves to be a rubble filled building site, and the beach is 10 miles away instead of 10 minutes, the tour operator has only committed an offence if it can be shown the correct information was available when the brochure was prepared.

Robin Young

Unit trusts Eastern funds set the pace

With only a month of the year remaining, funds specialising in Japan and other Far Eastern stock markets look set to take the laurels in the 1981 unit-trust league table. This time they make a clean sweep of the top 10.

The runners-up this month, though, show a number of changes. Trusts investing in North America have lost ground. They mounted a strong challenge for the top three places in the first 30 places in the listing for the year. Funds concentrating on the American market have been affected by interest rate fluctuations on both sides of the Atlantic. Throughout November, leading United States banks announced a number of cuts in their lending rates.

Apart from the benefit for the corporate sector, it is thought that if American interest rates continue to decline, the trend could shake out some of the momentum of the London-based United States money funds for reinvestment in the equity market. Balanced against these bullish factors

are the poor prospects for the American economy. Faced with this two-way pull, the Dow Jones industrial index rose a little over 4 per cent last month. What has offset this gain for United Kingdom investors has been the recent appreciation of sterling against the dollar. Sterling rose just over 5 per cent against the dollar during November, a strong round/rounding of course, reduces investment gains on Wall Street, so a lot depends on how long the trend continues.

HK Unit Trust Managers, part of the Hongkong Bank Group, apparently believes the trend won't last long. Commenting at the end of last month on prospects for its American Trusts, the managers attributed sterling's strength to its recent differential yield above the dollar's rate, which they do not see as being sustained.

"We expect sterling to weaken to \$1.80-\$1.85, and United Kingdom interest rates fall, caused by political expediency and other market factors," they said. One group of trusts which performed well was income funds. The significant rise in the building and engineering sectors, which several managers favour for income stocks, was a key contributing factor. Four weeks ago, only one income trust, Perpetual Income, appeared among the first 50. This time 10 income funds gain entry.

Perpetual Income still leads the competition in seventeenth position, with Henderson Income & Growth

in nineteenth place. The strong performance of the FT Actuaries All Share index (up 10 per cent) compared with several other major stock exchange indices last month has sharply cut the proportion of all unit trusts, which have kept ahead of our market pace setter this year.

Mike Hocking

Unit-trust performance table

Value of £100 invested over 11 months to December 1 (net income reinvested)

Source: Financial Services magazine.

FT All-Share Index 112.10

1. HHI Samuel Far East 182.90

2. Arbuthnot East & Int 140.40

3. Crescent Tokyo 139.50

4. Garmore Japan 138.00

5. S & P Japanese Growth 136.40

6. Henderson Japan 136.10

7. Midland Drayton Japan 136.50

8. GT Japan & Gen 135.90

9. Chisham Far Eastern 132.70

10. Target Pacific 131.30

11. HHI Samuel Far East 182.90

12. Arbuthnot East & Int 140.40

13. Crescent Tokyo 139.50

14. Garmore Japan 138.00

15. S & P Japanese Growth 136.40

16. Henderson Japan 136.10

17. Midland Drayton Japan 136.50

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Dec. 22. \$ Contango Day, Dec. 23. Settlement Day, Jan. 4.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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**Wire Bond
Rate**

2-11-1981

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 respondent
 Celtic Ryde. 2.30
 Fifty Dollars More. 3.30 King
selections
 1.15 Starlight Lad. 1.45 RYEMAN is
 amended. 2.15 Forty Sandy.
 3.15 Con T.

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15 Starlight Lad, 145 RYEMAN is
215 demanded, 215 Forty Sandy,
315 Con T.

...	9.48	Peoria	\$ 19.66	St. Louis	2.36	Tampa	4.39
...	7.45	Pennsylv.	2.28	Ottawa		Tulsa	11.52
...	2.46	Johns	28.82	Paris	10.50	Valencia	13.65
...	1.34	San Antonio	24.75	Progr	5.52	Vancouver	6.43
Alto	23.94	San Paulo	22.75	Portland	2.36	Venez	3.37
...	6.68	St. Louis	11.52	Portl	21.30	Vina	5.00
...	1.04	St. Paul	3.37	Portland	5.41	Warsaw	11.52
...	2.46	Los Angeles	15.59	St. Louis	17.63	Washington	2.36